THE Fisherman

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—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

September 5th—11th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 35

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For the second year in a row, Edelman's would like to thank Penn for printing a picture of Lou Rosado, V.P. of tackle sales at Edelman's in their new 1986 catalog. Al Ristori, took the picture and Penn was so kind to print it.

We help Penn by selling lots of their products at fantastic prices. They help us by printing a picture of our man, Lou Rosado, in their catalog.

— Thanks Again

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 35 September 5th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The highlight of Montauk's excellent run of bluefin tuna occured last Monday when Dawn Doster bested this 1041 pound giant aboard fiance Paul Stern's, *Tuna Tangler.* The huge horse mackerel was the thirtieth giant over 400 pounds taken aboard the Montauk charter boat this season. Dawn needed just 45 minutes to whip the fish. A day earlier, she bested a 700 pound class giant in just 20 minutes. Taken on a *Sea Isle* custom made rod, the brute was officially weighed at *Montauk Marine Basin.*

Publisher: Richard Reina

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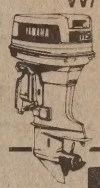

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SAFE BOATING COURSE OFFERED BY MORICHES BAY POWER SQUADRON

The Moriches Bay Power Squadron is pleased to announce that it will be holding its Semi-Annual Safe Boating Course at the Old Center Moriches High School beginning on Tuesday, September 10th, 7:30 PM.

Pleasure boating in our local waters is increasing at record numbers with the number of accidents and "near misses" growing at the same rate.

The Power Squadron Safe Boating Cours is designed to help all of the boating public to learn how to operate their pleasure boats in a safe and courteous manner.

A nominal fee, for course material, is all that is required to attend these most valuable classes.

For further information, please contact our Squadron Education Officer, Warren Burch at (516) 878-1887.

FIRE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE RELIGHTING IN MAY OF '86

Congressman Tom Downey, Fire Island National Seashore Superintendent Jack Hauptman and Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society Director Tom Roberts recently reviewed the first phase of the $3 million restoration of the Fire Island Lighthouse and plans for the relighting of the light in May, 1986.

The one-mile long, fully accessible boardwalk is the work of the Fire Island Youth Conservation Corps. In his address Congressman Downey recognized their important contribution to the restoration of the lighthouse area. Downey has been instrumental in raising public awareness and funding for the lighthouse restoration.

The award of a $106,368 contract for architectural and engineering services is expected to be announced. The contract calls for plans and specifications for the lighthouse lantern, tower interior and exterior restoration, keeper dwelling reconstruction, lighthouse connection and terrace restoration.

September big opening dates for three additional contracts, with bid estimates ranging from $1.1 to $3 million will be announced. Plans and specifications, architectural rendering and working drawings will be displayed.

Finally, officials from the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, which has raised $830,000 of the $1.1 million goal for the restoration and relighting of lighthouse structures, will announce initial plans for the gala celebration of the relighting of Fire Island Light. Billed as one of the largest celebrations in Long Island's history, it is designed as a precursor to the Statue of Liberty July 4th celebration. Fire Island Lighthouse was the first light that immigrants saw coming to America. The second was the Statue of Liberty.

SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE IN BAY SHORE

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Bay Shore Flotilla 1-5 will conduct the famous 12 week Basic Skills and Seamanship and the 12-week Sailing Skills and Seamanship starting Tuesday, September 10th, 7:30PM to 10PM at Bay Shore J.H.S., Brook Avenue, Bay Shore.

Limited enrollment, so register early. For more information or preregistration call: 666-5351 or 665-1107 after 5:30PM.

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Registration for a free course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will take place on Thursday, September 19th at 8PM at Flotilla 11-2 Headquarters Building #1 (tower) located in Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York.

This is a complete and comprehensive course presented by professional instructors. It will include Boat Handling, Safety, Legal Requirements, Rules of the Road and Navigation. Books and materials will be available for a nominal fee.

For further information, please contact: George Goodhartz, after 6PM at (718) 251)2472; or Thomas La Grutta, after 6PM at (718) 238-9187.

TENTH ANNUAL IGFA FISHING CONTEST OPEN TO WORLD'S ANGLERS

Freshwater and saltwater anglers worldwide can enter their prize catches in the Tenth Annual IGFA Fishing Contest. Entries are being accepted for all species (minimum weight 1 lb./.453 kg) cuaght on rod and reel according to IGFA angling rules. First, second and third place certificates will be awarded for the heaviest fish of each species taken during the contest year, plus all entrants will receive a certificate of catch.

Entries are being accepted for catches made on or after September 1, 1984. The contest will end with all entries received by IGFA as of November 30, 1985.

The contest is open to all anglers worldwide. There is no limit on the number of entries submitted by an angler.

Contest applications and copies of the IGFA angling rules may be obtained for US $1 to cover cost, postage and handling. Write to IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1616 USA.

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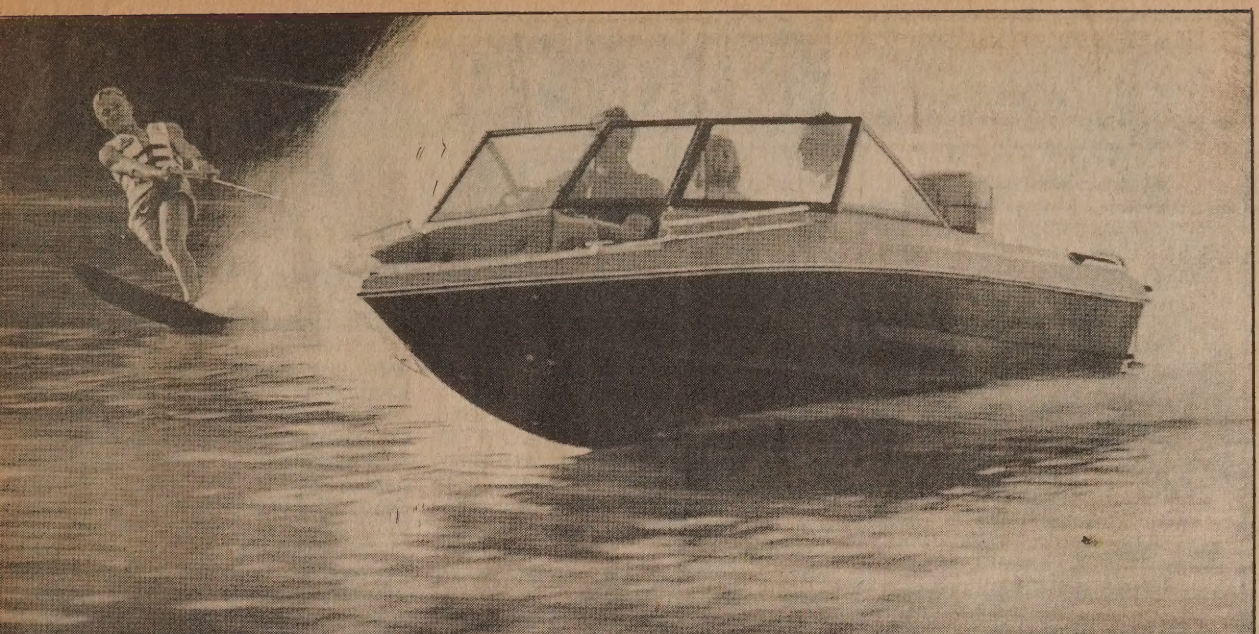

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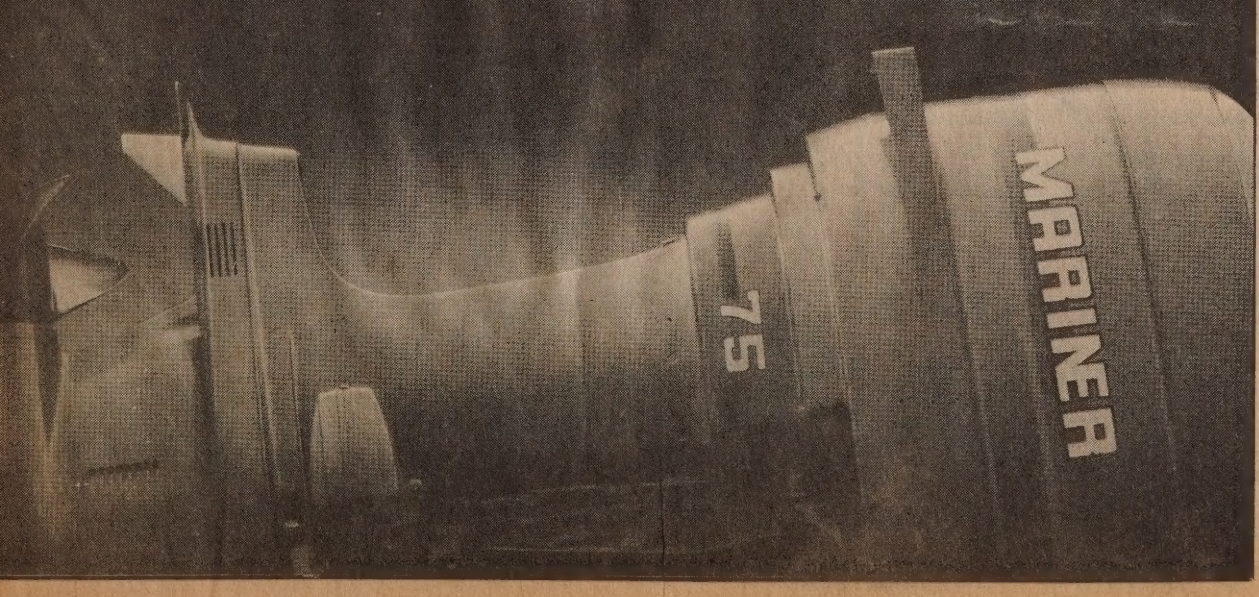

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

ALBEMARLE 24

by Pete Barrett

The Albemarle series of offshore boats is new to a lot of fishermen and there are many who will be seeing these boats for the first time this fall and winter at boat shows from Richmond to Boston. Built by a small boat company in North Carolina near Albemarle Sound (hence the name), the Albemarle line of boats has been quietly making a big impression on those who own them.

Few boats can boast of the super high quality construction that goes into an Albemarle. There's no mass production here. Instead, there is a lot of hand work, attention to details and careful assembly. The result is a fast, seaworthy boat that will last a lifetime.

I had the pleasure of running an Albemarle 24 on several shark fishing trips off the Jersey coast two years ago and again on another Albemarle on some reef fishing trips in the Florida Keys. This firsthand fishing experience left me very impressed with the boat, its performance and fishing ability.

The hull is a 24 degree deep vee. She rides very well in the short chop of a bay and handles bigger water at the offshore grounds with ease. A wide flare at the bow and a wide chine at water line throws annoying spray out and away from the boat, leaving you dry in all but the worst of quartering seas.

Freeboard is about mid-thigh for a six foot angler, and is plenty high enough for all offshore fishing; safety with young family members and for keeping rough water out of the boat.

The deck is large and provides a lot of fishing room. A beam of 8 feet and cockpit length of 12 feet totals up to nearly 100 square feet of fishing space. The deck sole is non-skid, plus there are four strips of teak laid into the deck about a foot and a half apart that add an extra measure of safety for sure footing. The deck is self-bailing through large scuppers that allow water to flow out, but not back in—great while drifting and diamond jigging, chumming or sharking.

The outboard version has a fold-down splash well to maximize available deck space and to keep following seas out of the deck area when placed in the upright position. The stern drive version has the usual engine cover, but this one is low enough to not get in the way of fishing and actually adds to the fishing area. It is also strong enough to be used to mount a fight chair.

Rod storage is provided under the gun'ls and again, the fisherman's needs have been kept in mind. The racks are large enough to hold rods and reels up to International size and use aluminum holders with nylon bushings so the rods are "locked" in place and won't get chafed by the rod holder.

The helm station is neat and clean. All gauges are in clear view and there is room for trim tab switches, in-dash flashers, temp gauges, and other small gauges you might want to in-

stall.

The cabin is very nicely done. No loud, flashy European styles here, just plain ol' American good taste. A tan, brown, gray plaid fabric is pleasing and will stand up to fishermen and fishing tackle.

The cabin is comfortable for a daytime snooze or an occasional overnighter if you want to get an early start to the fishing grounds. A portable head will fit handily in the floor space. Storage compartments under the bunks are provided for life jackets, spare clothes and foul weather gear.

To the port side of the cabin door is a three drawer tackle locker built right into the bulkhead. The drawers are large enough to hold spare line, rigging gear, terminal tackle, charts and fishing tools.

The folks at Albemarle have used only the very best of hardware on the 24. Cleats, grab rails, lifting eyes, and bow rail are all stainless steel, welded. Hawse pipes are the best Marinium.

Several construction methods make the Albemarle unique. Where many boats have the inner liner and deck screwed or riveted to the hull, the Albemarle is *through bolted* with aircraft type stainless screws with stainless washers and nylon locking nuts. I don't know of another boat of its size built like this: it is ***strong.***

The stringers are completely encapsulated in fiberglass and the hull is as thick as boats that are twice the length.

Both 24s that I ran had single Volvo stern drives and would travel along at a good speed. The Loran calculations said we could cruise along at 26 to 27 knots. Th top speed was just over 30 knots. The 24 is also available with twin I/Os, single or twin outboards. Gary Garrison at Mullica River Boat Basin has had an Albemarle with twin 200 hp Mercs exceed 40 knots—that's over 50 MPH!

There's a long list of standard items that are installed by the factory on every Albemarle: bilge blower, bilge pump, hydraulic steering, rope locker, cabin vent hatch, horn and, of course, all Coast Guard required lighting.

Maybe you've never heard of an Albemarle before. That's all the more reason to check one out at an upcoming boat show. From bottom fish to billfish, they are a very good fishing boat.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	23'7"
Beam	8'
Dry Weight:	
Outboard	3100 pounds
Stern Drive	3450 pounds
Max. Horsepower (Outboard)	450
Fuel Capacity:	
Outboard	147 gallons
Stern Drive	122 gallons

Manufactured by: Albemarle Boats, U.S. Highway 17, Business South, Edentown, North Carolina 27932, (919) 482-7423.

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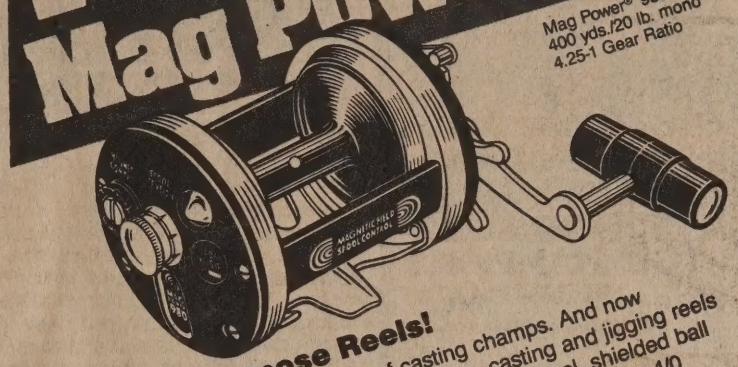

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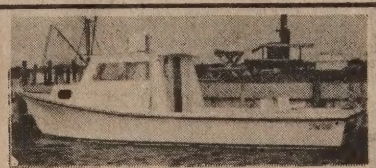

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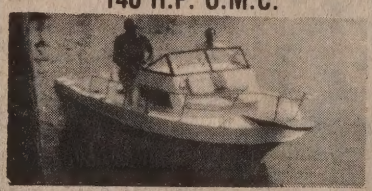

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

I've got a small problem with my outrigger rod holders. When I set the trolling rods in the gunnel mounted holders, the reels do not align themselves with the direction the line is coming off the outrigger clips. This makes me nervous since I am trolling for bigger fish and am afraid the line will break because it is not coming off the tiptop guide in a straight line between the rod and the lure.

Am I overreacting to a common problem or am I right in assuming there is a chance the line will part when excessive pressure is applied. Is there an easy solution? *Harold Troiano.*

Dear Harold,

Most offset rod holders do not give a direct pull from the outrigger to the rod. But, when a fish hits, the line pops free of the clip and then drops back in a straight or near straight direction from the rod tip. if you have not installed the holders correctly you will notice the line is coming off the tiptop at an angle, but as the rod flexes the line should pay into the roller so there is no excessive pressure or any additional abrasion to the line.

If this is not correct, I suggest you re-align the rod holders so the line does come off in a straight shot from rod tip to lure or you may find yourself breaking off fish that should not escape after taking a trolled lure.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I own a 22 foot Grady White boat that I was out shark fishing with two weeks ago. After getting nothing but large bluefish, we headed back home. But about 20 miles offshore, we encountered a bad electrical storm that had me worried for my life.

My question is how safe or unsafe is a boat in an electrical storm? And, are you better off running or not running? Are you better off with the outriggers down or up? I have had these questions in my head every time I see some lightning and would appreciate your insight. *Mlinda Michael.*

Dear Melinda,

Guess we've all been in the same situation as you, with lightning crackling around us and thunder booming to add its effect to the eerie feeling one gets when surrounded by a fierce thunderstorm.

It is certainly no place to be. If at all possible, we try to avoid the storms, but often it is impossible when an electrical front comes on us in a hurry and we're still miles from the inlet.

You should lower all outriggers, radio antennas, rods and whatever else looms higher than the normal boat configuration. It is also extremely important that your radio antenna be securely grounded as it will serve as a conductor and will discharge the lightning through the boat and into the water. If your antenna is of the fiberglass type and not grounded, it should be lowered when running through the storm.

Graphite fishing rods are suspect. It is claimed that the graphite fibers will attract an electrical charge, so when you see lightning or hear thunder booming in the distance, I suggest you put those graphite rods below deck or side mount holders so they are not sticking up above the boat hull.

Old-timers used to say it was possible to determine just how far away a thunderstorm was by counting the time lapse between the crack of lightning and the moment you hear the report of thunder which always follows a lightning bolt. As an example, you see the lightning and start counting—one thousand one, one thousand two and so forth, until the thunder booms. Divide by five the number of seconds to determine the distance in miles that the storm is from your position. It won't help much if you are 10 or 20 miles offshore, but when fishing close to shore it may give you time to crank up the engine and make it to the nearest inlet or sheltered waterway.

We have fished wire line during a thunder storm which is absolutely stupid. Blame it on our youth or the fact that we might not have had both oars in the water, bu knowing what we know today we would not troll wire line even when a storm is far off in the distance.

The smartest thing to do is keep abreast of local weather conditions and plan your fishing trips accordingly. It is true that lightning and thunderstorms move across an area very quickly, but by using the weather station you should have time to avoid most of these highly dangerous weather systems.

Most important say the "experts," is to avoid making contact with any of the boat's metal work. Stainless steel hand rails, and other bright metal

work is to be avoided at all costs. A few people even feel it is wise to don a life vest and to position yourself on the floor of the boat.

As a general rule most fast moving electrical storms are accompanied by strong winds that often attain gale force. You know how your boat handles in a high wind so that, too, is a consideration that must be kept in mind when planning a fishing trip where there is a chance you may have storms moving through the fishing area.

I'd say stay home when there is a serious threat of electrical storms, but if you like to fish and don't have complete faith in the weather forecaster's report, you'll probably go fishing anyway. Most weather forecasters say a fast moving thunderstorm is the hardest to track, so they hedge their bets by saying "there is a chance of some thunderstorms hitting such and such an area between such and such an hour."

* * *

Dear Doc,

Are there other companies that manufacture custom fish hooks in the United States? I know that there are many tackle shops that sell all kinds of hooks, but I am looking for someone that makes "special" hooks.

I already know about Mustad and Eagle Claw, but wonder if there are other companies currently making fishhooks. Can you supply the names of some of these unknown companies? *F. Trotman.*

Dear F. Trotman:

I can think of a few companies currently marketing fishhooks in the U.S. other than Eagle Claw and Mustad. But why do you need to know of other outlets. If you require a "special" hook which must be custom fashioned from start to finish, I suggest you visit a local machine shop and ask if they can handle the job for you.

Tru Turn Hooks makes an excellent off-set hook that is getting a lot of play from fresh and salt water anglers. The V.M.C. Company is another excellent source of hooks, although they do stick to the standard patterns as do Mustad and Eagle Claw.

We've used some of the fine wire English hooks with outstanding results. These are not available in the U.S. but can be ordered direct from England. They cost a lot and may (or may not) be worth the additional expense when used for general purpose work.

For a lot of years Pflueger manufactured a complete line of hooks for salt and fresh water fishing and some of these may still be laying around gathering dust on some tackle shop shelves.

I would appreciate a follow-up letter describing exactly what you are looking for in the way of hooks. More than likely they are already being manufactured by one of the major companies or were in previous years.

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★★★ NEWS UPDATE ★★★

BROWN WATER EPIDEMIC CONTINUES

by William A. Muller

It started early in the season. Not at the same time or the same place in all estuaries, but here and then there with a decline, only to be followed by a return to a heavier stain. Most of the Island's bays have been affected with the Great South Bay and Peconic the hardest hit and Long Island Sound and the waters east of Gardiner's Bay virtually unaffected. We visited a stretch of south shore ocean on August 16th and found the water brown with an unpleasant odor even though the ocean was calm. Thus, perhaps parts of the inshore ocean in proximity to inlets has also been affected.

The blight is the result of a bloom of a type of small algae known as diatoms. These are golden algae. Under normal circumstances, diatoms are essential for healthy estuaries. In fact, typically pollution causes an increase in green algae called chlorophytes and a decline in diatoms. The particular species involved in this year's brown water problem is **Bellerochea polymorpha.**

Dr. Scott Sidell from the State University at Stony Brook has been keeping tabs on the levels of the diatom throughout the summer in the Peconics. He reported that the blight seemed to reach a peak in June when he found a concentration level of the diatoms at 2,000,000 cells per milliliter. In July, there was a decline to about 500,000 cells per ml and his observation coincided with reports from fishermen that the water seemed to be clearing up. However, recently the concentration has risen to about 800,000 cells per ml, and Dr. Sidell expects that level to be maintained until waters cool.

Most biologists blame the "bloom" (a sudden and very rapid reproduction of microscopic organisms) on a cool, dry spring followed by a wet May. The May rains washed nutrients from the land into the sea setting up an opportunity for the bloom. Prolonged periods of calm also helped to prevent wind, wave, and current dissipation of the algae.

Recently, some biologists have expressed a new concern born of the reluctance of the bloom to decline. Should a large majority of the algae die at about the same time, it is possible that their decay will consume most of the available oxygen in the water. This may not be true universally, yet in localized areas the sudden loss of oxygen could cause fish kills. According to one biologist: "We'll have to keep close tabs on this situation and do our best to avoid an extension of a more or less natural environmental problem into the homes of Long Island residents."

"Should a large majority of the algae die at about the same time, it is possible that their decay will consume most of the available oxygen in the water."

A new alarm was raised within the last week or two because of the approaching scallop season. It is traditional for baymen to make sample tows with their scallop dredges in areas where large numbers of bug scallops had been previously spotted. In this way baymen and DEC officials are able to make better use of the resource as well as manage it more effectively. On one recent test tow that lasted several hours in east end waters, only two live scallops were found in spite of the fact that earlier large sets were spotted in these areas.

It appears that this particular diatom clogs the digestive tracts of shellfish and prevents them from feeding properly. They are literally starving to death.

Important Note: Biologists involved in the study of this phenomena emphatically point out that although the diatoms causes the starvation of some shellfish, it does not produce toxins and thus it is safe to eat shellfish and finfish that are caught in areas affected by the brown water phenomenon.

Although many experts are suggesting the starvation of scallops, some have indicated a belief that the heavy bloom of diatoms restricts sunlight from penetrating to lower levels of the water. Thus, key plant species such as eelgrass have not gotten enough sunlight and thus have stopped growing or even died away. Since the eelgrass beds are so vital to the healthy growth of many shellfish and finfish, one thought suggests that scallops along with other species of shellfish and finfish have suffered from a loss of nurturing habitat.

It is interesting that fishing in many areas heavily affected by the brown water phenomenon has declined sharply leading to unrestricted speculation. Many fishermen we have talked with were convinced that fishing has been poor because the brown water forced essential baitfish to flee. Without adequate forage, game fish had to leave. Others have indicated the virtual disappearance of some species of crabs in some places leading these folks to the conclusion that live blooms of the diatoms have already robbed oxygen from the water in some places.

Although the apparent scallop disaster is of great concern to many Long Islanders, and has focused attention on the brown water stain with renewed enthusiasm, it should be remembered that the effects of this bloom are likely more far reaching than is obvious to us at this time. One question is whether the bloom will reoccur next year; another involves the productivity of key inshore species such as winter flounder, weakfish and the effects on other species such as porgies and snapper blues. Time and the results of ongoing studies will shed light on this issue in the future. In the meantime, with the fall almost here and the inevitable decomposition of the diatom blooms not far off, let's keep our ears to the rail and our eyes open. We'll do our best to keep you posted on these pages.

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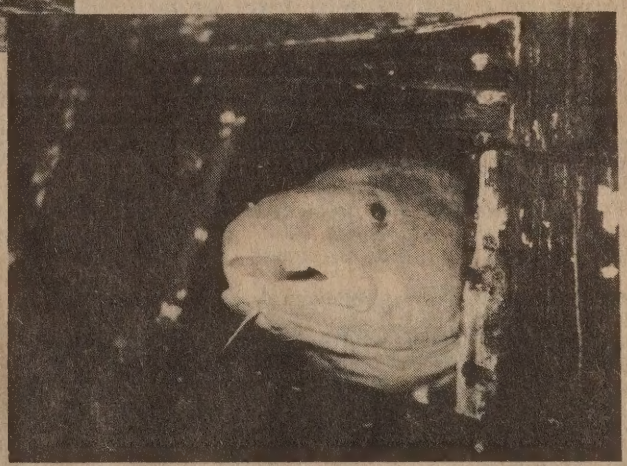

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MORICHES BAY FLUKE DERBY A HIT!

by William A. Muller

More than 600 competing anglers helped make the first running of this event a huge success.

The third derby in a series of four charity events was held the weekend of August 24th and 25th. Co-sponsored by the Moriches Bay Marine Association and The Long Island Fisherman, in cooperation with the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission, the event drew 620 participants, making this derby the largest to date.

Thanks to the Moriches Bay Marine Association for their help. The people who own the boat liveries worked hard to promote the event and their efforts account for its success. A special thanks must go to Nick Castoro, Cerullo Brothers Fishing Station, who led the charge for this derby and signed up 287 participants.

Also special thanks to corporate contributors Genesee Brewing Company for providing beer at the awards ceremony and DuPont-Stren for providing a spool of line to each participant at the awards ceremony.

Saturday's weather was great, but Sunday was rainy and windy. Still, many die-hards got out on the water on Sunday and several of the winning fish were caught on Sunday. These winners indicated their belief that smaller boat crowds on the bay encouraged some bigger fish to get hungry. One participant was quoted as saying; "Hey, you can't let a little rain stop you. If you want to win you've got to go fishing. It's important to get the right spirit about these things. I had a great time and it was for a good cause. I loved it and I, for one, hope you do it again next year!" You bet we will fella.

I arrived later than I expected Sunday afternoon due to traffic and heavy weather. I arrived in the middle of a driving rainstorm and was greeted by a crush of smiling faces eagerly awaiting the awards ceremony. We moved the ceremony indoors and even though it was humid and crowded the good humor of several hundred people was maintained. From all indications and feedback, not only was the contest a big success, but so was the awards ceremony. We were fortunate that Mr. Romaine and Mr. Glassman from the Town of Brookhaven were present to present a large, beautiful trophy to the first place winner on behalf of town government. Suffolk Life was also on hand to cover the story and we appreciate their interest.

Now for the winners. The Long Island Fisherman wants to congratulate all the winners for a job well done. We also want to congratulate all 620 participants. Even if you didn't win a prize each of you was a winner anyway, because you enjoyed yourself fishing and participated in an effort that will allow for support of worthwhile projects in support of the saltwater recreational fishing industry. Cerullo Brothers boasts 7 of the 11 winners (tie for 10th place). Congratulations to Cerullo's.

Several of the winners were not present at the awards ceremony; thus did not pick up their awards. You can contact Nick Castoro at Cerullo Brothers and make arrangements to pick up your prize.

Just a reminder that first place was worth $500 in cash, second place $250 and third $100. Fourth through tenth place finishers received tackle or equipment prizes. Also let me remind you that some of the best fluking in Moriches Bay is yet to come. Don't give up on the season just because Labor Day comes and goes. Moriches Bay boat liveries will be open to serve you in your fishing into the fall.

Thanks to participating fishing stations for all their help and good council. Tadsen's Fishing Station, L&M Marine, Silly Lily Fishing Station, Sea Tuck Cove Marine, and Hi-Way Fishing Station. The efforts of these fine men and women must not go unappreciated.

A last reminder. The fourth and last of this year's charity derbies will be the surf bluefish derby to be held this October. Over 300 good people got this derby off to a great start last year and we're looking forward to five or six hundred participants this year. There are tons of big blues in the fall surf. Anybody can win, everybody has a great time, so how can you lose. Look for details in upcoming LIF ads and look for information in winter issues about an expanded inshore derby schedule.

MORICHES BAY FLUKE DERBY WINNERS

1.	Chris Stuven	5 pounds, 7 ounces
2.	Al Titone	5 pounds, 1 ounce
3.	Walt Szalankiewicz	4 pounds, 6 ounces
4.	George Kideris	3 pounds, 12 ounces
5.	John Aguis	3 pounds, 11 ounces
6.	Charlie Marino	3 pounds, 2 ounces
7/8.	Don Hulsen	2 pounds, 15 ounces
	Ellis Holly	2 pounds, 15 ounces
9.	Robert McLaughlin	2 pounds, 13 ounces
10.	Al Wascicewicz	2 pounds, 12 ounces
	Martin Rubinstein	2 pounds, 12 ounces

SEPTEMBER FISHING

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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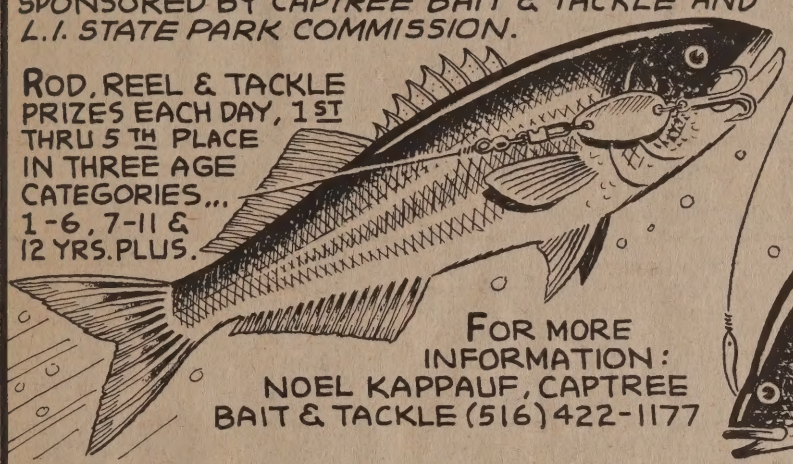

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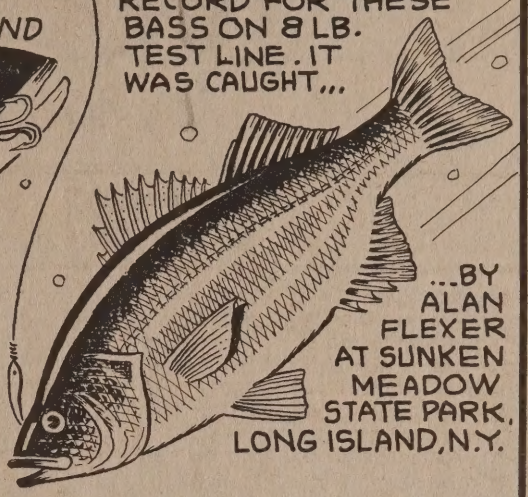

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ATLANTIC WRECK SERIES:

SUMMARY & UPDATE

by John Raguso

Well, now that the first Atlantic wreck series is history, this last installment is going to bring you up to speed on what's been happening so far this year with some of the wrecks we've talked about in the 20 weeks which have preceded our finale.

As many of you inshore and offshore enthusiasts know, as of this writing this has been a very unusual year for pursuing ocean game fish. The once predictable canyons have seen some hits and mostly misses, and even the 20 to 30 fathom intermediate areas have been plagued by a pea green version of the "algae bloom" which had colored many of our bays a syrupy brown back in June, putting most fish off of their typical feeding patterns. Consequently, many of our blue water hotspots have been inconsistent at best, as the game becomes not how many fish can you catch, but where will the blue water be today and will you be able to find it? Many of our inshore tuna, such as the school-sized yellowfin and bluefin, have moved south to join their cousins on the edge of the Continental Shelf. Offshore enthusiasts are shocked as gorilla blues in the 15 to 20 lb. range crash the high speed tuna baits over known offshore haunts such as the Texas Tower, Bacardi Wreck, Chicken Canyon, Virginia Wreck and (gasp!) even in the shadows of the Hudson Canyon.

Now I'm not insinuating that I don't like catching killer bluefish whenever the chance presents itself. What I am saying is that when you gear yourself up for a 200 lb. bigeye tuna, it's a bit of a letdown having voracious schools of hungry slammers chop up leaders meant for bigger, more exotic game. After all, most offshore anglers do not spend a hundred grand for a suitable platform and a couple of hundred bucks for fuel to catch blues 60 miles off the beach, when they can effectively do this much closer to home. But let's face the facts: the tuna have moved out because they can't tolerate the quality of the water and the opportunistic bluefish have moved in to take their place for now. Until some major storm hits the area or until the water cools down enough to alleviate the growth of the algae, the blues will be with us on the offshore grounds. I would however, love to be the proverbial "fly on the wall" when the water finally clears up enough to allow the school tuna and marlin to return to their former residences. There will probably be a tidal wave of bluefish pushing north en masse, as the hunters now become the hunted and seek the protection of the inshore waters.

How this green water phenomena affects our disposition towards wreck fishing, is that it makes it even more important to know where these underwater fish meccas are located, since our other offshore structure and canyon options have been taken away from us, at least for the time being. If the ocean predators are not congregating in the upper surface waters along the historical migration routes, then they must be somewhere else. Smart money said that the lower water table traffic around our local 15 to 25 fathom wrecks could be like the Long Island Expressway on a Friday afternoon, and this postulation has paid off for the few of us that have given the inshore wreck fishing a dedicated shot. The month of July and first few weeks of August have taught us some valuable lessons and produced some big scores. The major revelations were that if you fished a wreck near a fathom curve, the odds of sucess were greatly improved. If you fished a wreck near this bottom structure that was in clear water, chances were that you'd have a great day.

A group of buddies and myself from the Babylon Tuna Club formed an agreement earlier this year that we'd pool our knowledge and act as one, sharing all experiences no matter how remote or esoteric, after each trip. Since we all have reliable offshore craft in the 23 to 25 foot class, concentrating our efforts in the 15 to 30 fathom range would give us a realistic option until the traditional offshore waters returned to life. In retrospect, remaining inshore was a blessing in disguise, since the results were beyond our most favorable expectations.

The 20 fathom wrecks such as the G&D (Gloria and Doris), Yankee,

Burnside, Irma C, 3 Fairs and the Lynda have produced many and often big fish on just about every trip we've made this year. Out of 18 sorties to these wrecks in a six week period, we hit sharks on 15 occasions for a batting average of .833, which is not too shabby. My boat, a 24 foot Grady White had the good fortune to connect with a 285 lb. mako on the Fourth of July weekend near the Yankee wreck and we've experienced one of our "best ever" inshore shark fisheries ever since, despite what you might be reading in the local waters. The reasons for this are many, with the availability of bait (legions of bluefish), structure and favorable water temperatures leading the list. Another factor contributing to this is the band of clear water which we call the "Neutral zone," which has been trapped in this area ever since the green water plague besieged us. Earlier in the season, this blue water band could be found in the area of the Yankee wreck along the 20 fathom curve and streched eastward. As of the third week of August, this neutral zone started east of the NA buoy near the Lynda and Oregon wrecks and traveled east, south of Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, past the Coimbra wreck and out towards Montauk. The clear water was situated only between 20 and 30 fathoms, with anything to the north and south of it reverting back to the pea soup green water, and usually devoid of any consistent fishing, except bluefish.

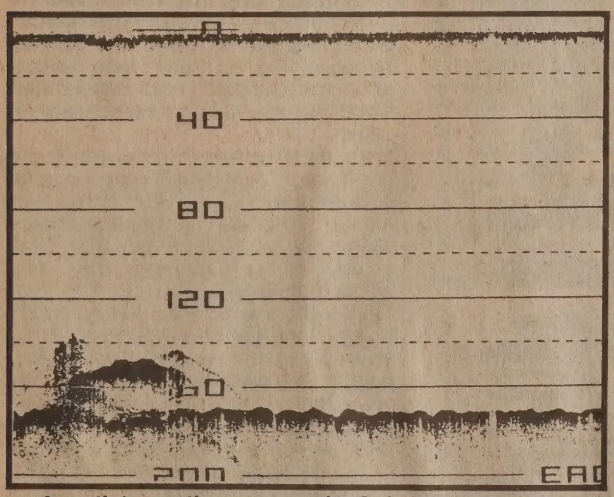
The most noteworthy catch from this area came on Friday, August 17th, when 15-year-old angler Jamie Coane bested a 600 lb. plus tiger shark on 50 lb. test tackle, on his dad's 25 foot Bertram. The battle lasted three hours and the monster shark was hooked in 135 feet of water near the Lynda wreck. Both angler and crew had to weather a sudden summer squall as well as the prolonged argument with the big tiger before they could claim final victory. Then there was also the problem of what to do with the 11 foot long behemoth so that they could get it back to the dock for a weigh-in.

It took the crew another hour to hoist the fish on their gin pole and an additional 2½ hours to fight the unfriendly seas back to Fire Island Inlet. A trip to Frank and Dick's and Augie's was fruitless, since the big tiger was too large for their scales. Finally, the shark was brought to the State Channel Marina the next day, almost 24 hours subsequent to its capture, where it tipped the Toledo at an even 600 lbs. You must remember that in the process the tiger lost significant amounts of blood and body fluids, and most assuredly would have gone near 700 lbs. if it had been weighed immediately after its capture.

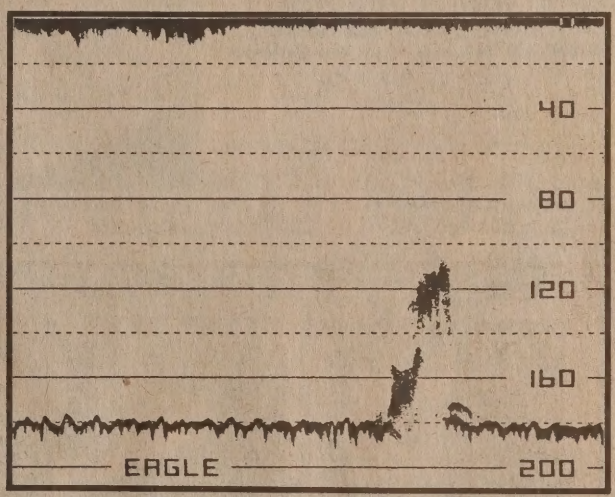
Now I'd like to take you through some reports of fishing activity at some of the specific wrecks we've covered in this initial series, and for which you should have the positional data in your files:

Coimbra: The wreck of this British tanker sunk in World War II by a German U-boat lying south of Shinnecock Inlet in 30 fathoms, has lived up to its reputation as a consistent producer of big game fish. Numerous makos have been caught near here this summer up to 400 lbs., and the action was still going strong as of August 11th, when our trip there resulted in a few large skipjack tuna in the 10 to 12 lb. class plus a mess of large bluefish, once we moved too far south past the blue water into the

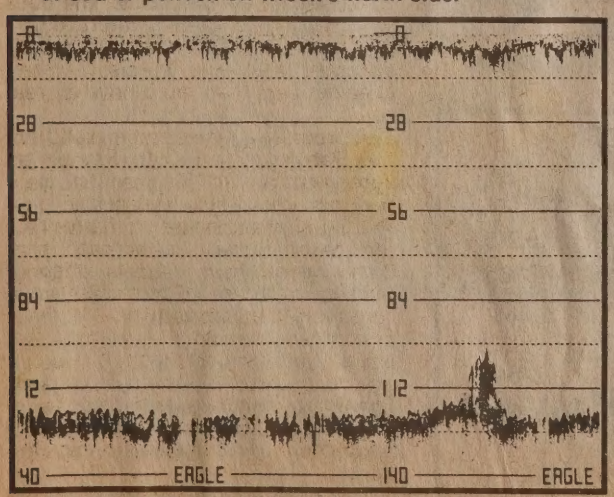
(Continued on next page.)



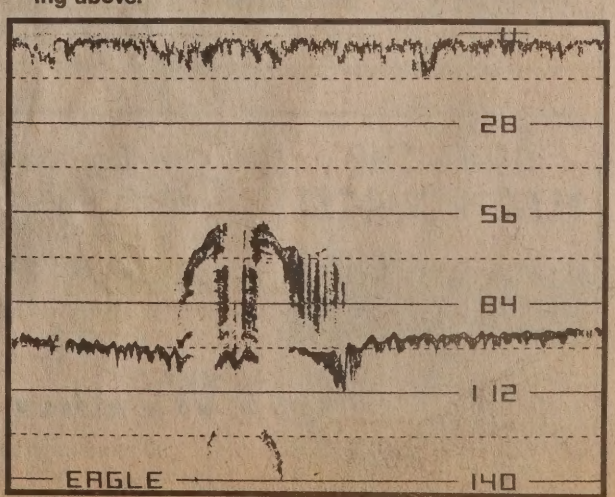
A north to south pass over the Coimbra. Note school of cod or pollock on wreck's north side.



The Texas Tower with a school of big bluefish hovering above.



A pass from east to west across the beam of the Oregon



A pass from west to east across the beam of the San Diego.

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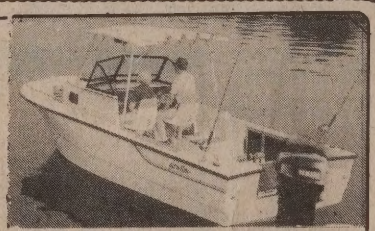

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green soup. Some other boats fishing there that day hooked up to a school of dolphin hiding under some floating timber, and one of the local boats had caught a 250 lb. mako the day before while anchored over the wreck. Two days after our trip, another Babylon Tuna Club boat caught about a dozen cod and pollock in the 20 to 30 lb. class using bait.

The Turner: A fisherman buddy, Dan Berg, made a trip to this rusting hulk of a World War II Navy destroyer near the Ambrose Tower. His firsthand inspection revealed schools of small cod to be plentiful there even as of early July.

Texas Tower #4: Three ventures to the collapsed framework of this Air Force radar tower produced only one small yellowfin tuna and hordes of monster bluefish in late July and early August. Earlier in the season before the green water invaded this offshore structure, a few small blue marlin, some 150 lb. class bigeye tuna and many 40 to 50 lb. yellowfin tuna were caught near the shadows of the tower, as well as some early season mako sharks in mid-June.

San Diego: Two trips here have resulted in numerous bluefish and a few skipjack tuna now that the water is starting to clear up. Tuna action should improve in the fall as well as the possibility for some late season sharking. October and November should see the first of the schools of codfish.

Oregon: Our first trip here in mid-July found four dive boats on the wreck before us, so we opted for another location. A second trip produced some large bluefish as well as a 50 lb. brown shark that was tagged and released.

Lillian: A trip here in early August netted a number of large bluefish which crashed our tuna baits without mercy. We beat a hasty retreat to the ridges of Chicken Canyon, only to be surrounded by the ubiquitous green water and to have our lures suffer a similar fate to another school of marauding choppers. (Maybe they followed us?)

As part of our wreck update process, I've included some tighter numbers for a few of the shipwreck locations presented earlier in the series. The majority of the information given each week was either first-hand data gleaned from the experiences of myself or my associates, or that obtained from local divers. However, a few of the wreck positions were interpolated from Lat/Long coordinates supplied by NOAA and Coast Guard files, and they were listed as "position approximate."

Recently, I received a correspondence from a veteran south Jersey charter boat skipper who claimed to have originally found such notable wrecks as the Varanger (28 mile wreck) and the Cayru. He forwarded along some of his positional data, so I'll share it with you as the first of our list of official updates. You'll note that most of the numbers jibe to within a

microsecond or so, but some will exhibit a slightly larger variance. This discrepancy is not significant unless you plan to anchor directly over the wreck. But beware, as even in the situations where the TDs are very close, they may not match up exactly to those produced by your Loran C unit. You'll probably have to conduct a controlled search pattern for each new wreck you try to find; so keep a few bleach jugs on board loaded with appropriate lengths of line and sinkers, and refer back to my earlier article in this series on how to do this.

I've included the original list of Loran C wreck coordinates and those offered by the Jersey captain for comparison. Since he requested to remain anonymous, I'll call him "Capt. J" for now.

Before we conclude the wrap-up, I'd like to mention a few words about scuba divers and common courtesy. As more of you venture offshore to fish the wrecks, you'll find that dive boats occasionally will frequent them as well. This is especially true in the summer months and on the large, relatively inshore wrecks like the San Diego, the Oregon, the Lynda, the G&D and even on the Texas Tower. Needless to say, if you know that there are 15 to 20 divers down on a wreck, and they were there first, you don't want to start a chum slick going or drag your tuna lures through the maze of anchored mother ships. If you want to throw down the hook for some bottom fishing, you can get away with this if it's a long wreck like the Virginia, Oregon or San Diego. Otherwise, it would be prudent to fall back to alternate plan B and fish another piece of ocean.

Conversely, if you're already anchored up over a wreck and a dive boat comes along, don't go crazy if the captain pulls up a short distance away, drops the hook, and discharges some divers. Contrary to popular belief, divers don't really spook the fish, but tend to attract them with their bubble streams emitted from spent oxygen. Once they're in the water, fish react to them like any other form of aquatic life, and if the scuba boys aren't spearing the fish, their presence shouldn't really adversely impact the fishing. Who knows, if you develop a rapport with these folks, they might even tell you where the groundfish are congregating on the wreck, which you can put to use either after they leave or the next time you return. Remember, too, that the dive boats are relatively slow craft and have fewer options for other dive spots should you be positioned on one of their primo locations.

I hope that you readers have enjoyed this first Atlantic Wreck Series. It certainly was a pleasure bringing it to you and I'm thankful to Fred Golofaro and Russ Wilson for having the insight and courage to publish it. For all those who are still trying to track down the whereabouts of the Capt. Vic Offshore charts, you can reach him at: Capt. Vic Enterprises, 8 Iris Court, Milltown, NJ 08850, (201) 821-8810.

Currently, I'm working on a second, follow-up series and intend to include some Montauk and North Shore/Long Island Sound wrecks, as well as some local New York Bight favorites like the Yankee, the Virginia, the Oil Wreck, the Mohawk, the San Jose, and the five artificial reefs that dot the south shore of Long Island. I'd be interested in your comments, either positive or negative and also whatever requests you might have to include your favorite wrecks that have not been covered. Next year's articles will have the benefit of more actual photographs of the ships that we're discussing, plus a selection of underwater shots by some of the local divers I've met who frequent the offshore structure. Also, please look out for and support the book that I'm developing on this subject. It'll include many illustrations that never made the pages of The Fisherman due to space limitations, in addition to the latest updated positional TDs and some comprehensive graph recorder pictures. It'll probably be available through The Fisherman and also at your local tackle shop. Please send your comments to me care of The Fisherman, and I'll try to get back to you when time permits. Keep an accurate log of what you do over the wrecks, and be safe out there!

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RUN FOR THE "BANK"

by Martin & Janet Garrell

To the serious party boat angler, Mecca lies 140 miles to the northeast of Montauk Point.

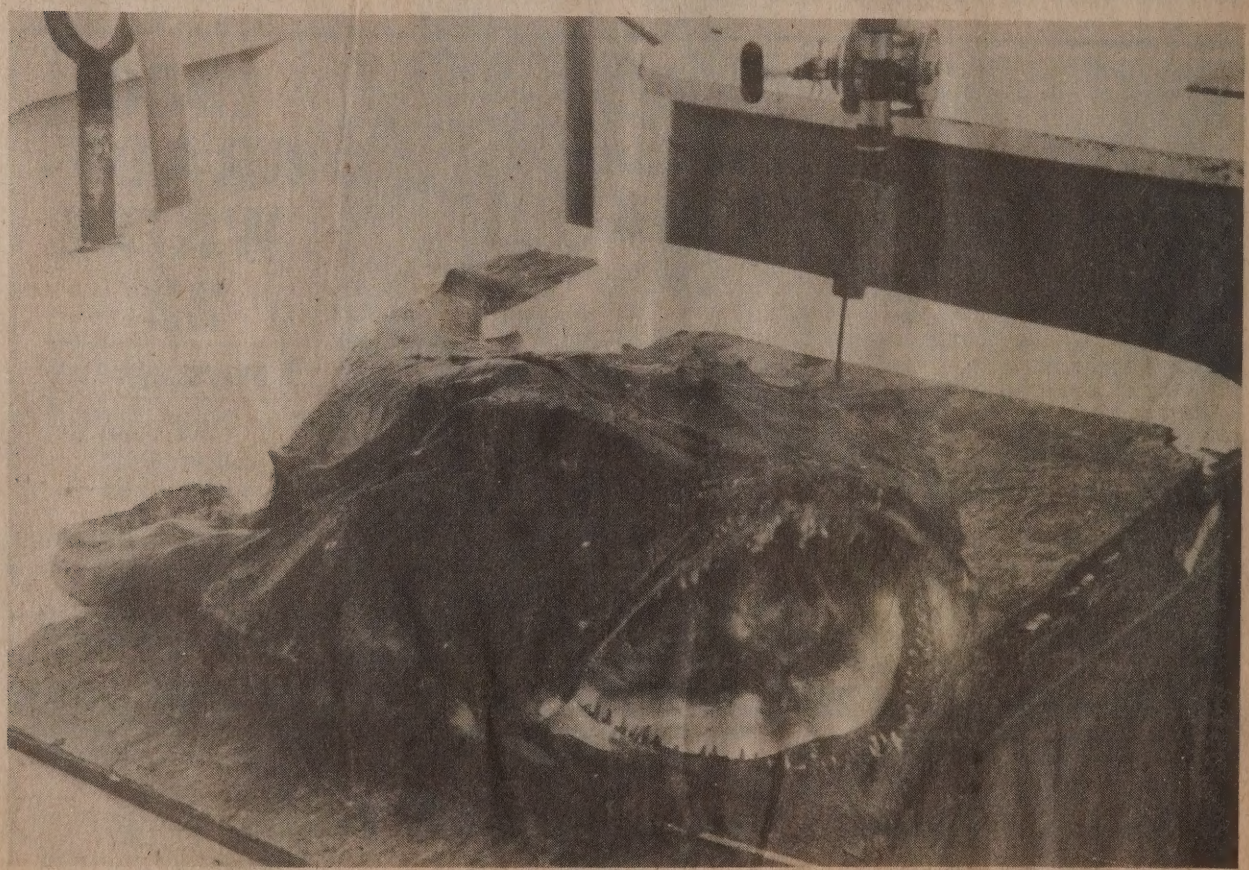
Every sports person has his or her own version of paradise. The big game hunter thinks of Alaska, while the trout fisherman thinks, or rather **dreams** of Labrador, but what about the party boat angler? For a cod specialist, El Dorado simply has to be the offshore grounds way up north, like Georges Bank and Nantucket.

At first glance, it would seem impossible for Long Island anglers to reach these waters from the tips of Paumonok. After all, Georges lies in the Gulf of Maine, some 140 sea miles from Montauk. However, Paul Forsberg has been running the 115 foot Viking Starship from West Lake to his favorite Nantucket wrecks and to the Banks for a number of seasons, and the codfishing is indeed well worth the effort that it takes to make the trip, as we found out last September.

The boat leaves the Point at 9PM on the last day of a weekend, September 2 and 22, October 6 and 20 in 1985 and returns two days later at 7PM; September 4 and 24, October 8 and 22, and the cost for the nearly 48 hours at sea is only $125 with deposit and reservations required beforehand. For information, anglers should call 668-5700.

It need not be a strenuous trip either. Those with sea legs or the seasick preventive, Scopolamine, can find surprisingly roomy berths below decks and can enjoy a good night's sleep on the 10 hour run to the grounds. On past trips the boat often fished one whole day until dark on Georges Bank before jogging over to the Nantucket wrecks after supper and getting on them around 1AM. It's mostly cod at Georges and hake and pollock during the night on the Nantucket wrecks, but the cod begin to feed hot and heavy at daybreak, and by 10AM quitting time, most anglers have had enough. Then it's back to the cleaning table and the restaurant after the final whistle. The bunks look especially good for a few hours before arriving back at Montauk in the evening.

Georges Bank, a huge hump that rises from the ocean floor, is the subject of controversy over oil leases; the current Administration insists on the option of selling leases for drilling rights close to the bank, despite loud protests from coastal conservationists and commercial fishermen who feel that the risk would be tremendous. They are absolutely right! The bank is incredibly productive with cod so thick that sport fishing parties can fish next to gill nets, draggers and handliners, and still find plenty of cod to go around when conditions are



An anglerfish taken from Georges Bank. They are one of the most popular eating fish among the non-gadids. This one had five claimants by the time it hit the deck.

favorable.

The wrecks can be more fickle. Forsberg's father built the old Viking Star for Nantucket wreck trips and started sailing to the Andrea Doria all the way back in 1968, but the big commercial trawlers, both U.S. and foreign, plugged and jammed the familiar wrecks so badly with nets that Forsberg is always searching for new ones. Paul goes to the Doria once in awhile, but he has seven wrecks that produce quite well, and 1 out of 3 usually has a lot of fish.

Naturally, this is heavy tackle country. The critical problem for fishermen is getting to the bottom in anywhere from 120 to 220 feet of water and keeping the clams or diamonds down long enough to entice the gadids. George is more of a problem because, as Forsberg is fond of saying, "This is where all the fogs and all the tides in the world come from." Drifting during slack water early in the morning we found that 10 or 12 ounces of lead was actually fine. Then, as tides began to run, anglers put on their lead boots:first 16 ounce sinkers, then 20s, then 24s, and finally 2 or more 16 ounce sinkers taped together. Diamond jiggers were whaling away with everything from 8 to 17 ounces.

Rather than attempting to hold bottom, which was usually futile at full tide, most sharpies let their rigs bounce along the bottom while paying out line, or cast diamond jigs far up-tide and allow them to drift back for a short period of jigging close to the bottom. Line test was not nearly so critical as having a stiff rod for the task, and successful anglers used everything from 20 lb. dacron to 50 lb. mono.

No, this is not easy fishing; it calls for some physical stamina, and a belt harness helps a lot, but when Forsberg locates fish for his fares during the turn of the tide, the cod are thick and competitive, biting like so many uninhibited snappers, and fishing becomes a wild leap job with cod ranging from rats to 40 lb. cows thumping onto the decks.

The trick is to be ready for this bite with spare rods, even if you must rig them during the relatively slow periods. Even though anglers are limited to the 60 plus who can fish comfortably along one side and the stern rail, the wicked tides can take lines from the bow and sweep them along to the stern. On the drift, somebody is always defying logic and dragging a long belly of line amid-ships under the craft where it tangles strands from the other side. Crew and veterans seem patient enough be-cause there are plenty of fish to go around. Cutters save time by cutting through the Gordian knots and rigged spare rods put one back in business quickly when a blast of fish is in progress.

What we enjoyed the most about the trip was the lack of pressure. You simply knew you were going to get all the fish you needed and could take time off for photography and rig making. With line shyness not a major factor, anglers can use 80 lb. leader material and all the swivels they want, including three-ways, to build up twist-resistant high hook cod rigs. For the best sensitivity, although the cod bites were hardly gentle pick-ups, a dacron line worked nicely for us with about 10 yards of 30 to 40 lb. mono fastened to the terminal end with a Uni-loop connection. The cod pollock rig was then swivelled onto the mono with about three feet of heavy leader above the high hook or tube teaser.

If you go, be sure to take an extra rod and reel in case something fails. You're a long way from home and you've invested lots of time and money. Also, take a cooler with room for lots of ice and lots of fish. A 100 quart cooler is none too large, and the boat has plenty of room for the monster chests that the veterans bring. I carried a couple of blocks of ice and added more chipped ice from the ship's supply, and I found that I had plenty of time to gut my catch periodically, saving the big filleting jobs for the periods when the boat was in transit.

Other fish besides the gadids are part of the catch. The ugly but tasty wolffish (ocean catfish) and angler (monkfish) add some splendid eating experiences for those who nail them, and although we never saw any, jig-caught halibut of 50 and more pounds are supposed to be for bottom fisher-men what broadbill are to the offshore folks.

The only way to summarize the long offshore hauls up into the distant waters of Massachusetts and the Gulf of Maine is to use the time honored East End expression "Finest Kind." It applies not only to the fishing and to the eating that results, but to the whole experience!

Time to settle up the pool on the Starship. Cod in the 40 pound class were numerous on this trip.

SHREWSBURY DOORMATS AND SLAMMERS

by Capt. Pete Mikoleski

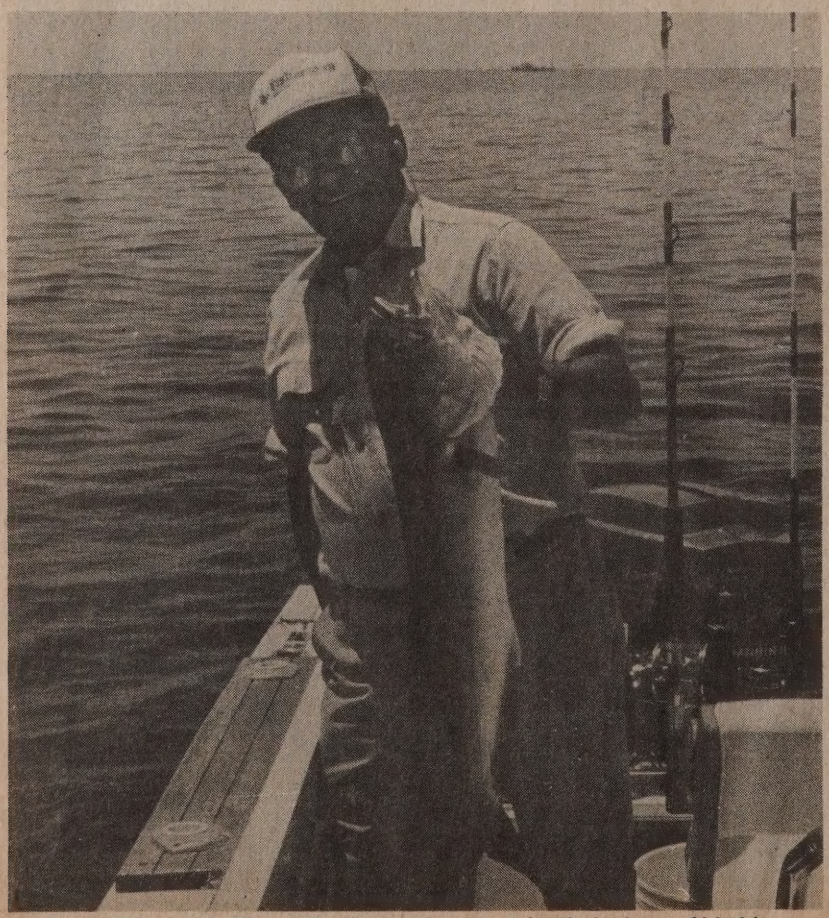
The last time we were "messing about in a boat" around the Shrewsbury Rocks back in June, we were after blackfish and sea bass. Now that the warm water species are in residence, let's concentrate on catching some doormat fluke and chopper blues at "The Rocks." Just to refresh your memories a bit, the rocky bottom structure that we'll be looking for is situated about 12 nautical miles south of Rockaway Inlet. That productive patch of bottom is marked by the "I" buoy, located 2½ miles off the coast of northern New Jersey. It's an easy trip for a medium sized boat in the 19 to 22 foot range, providing the crew exercises some common sense and picks some good weather.

The first run of early summer fluke usually consists of large quantities of smaller "short" fish with a decent amount of keepers mixed in to fill that fish box! This lengthy flurry of action is usually followed by a fluke slowdown that usually lasts a few weeks and is commonly referred to as the summer doldrums. After that, we can usually expect to see a good mixture of fluke getting bigger as the season progresses in to September—prime time for doormats everywhere. Before I go on any further, let's take a moment to re-define what is actually considered a doormat nowadays. About 15 years ago, my father and I, along with my Uncle Chink did a fair amount of fluke fishing aboard the Capt. Eric, a party boat sailing from Captree State Park. Back then you could enter two pools on a party boat. There was the fifty cent boat pool for the biggest fish on the boat, and the $1 dock pool that was for the biggest fluke of the fleet. It was almost a common occurrence that a 9 or 10 lb. fluke won the boat pool. Usually a fluke over 12 lbs. was needed to cop the dock pool that usually brought home the lucky angler over 1500 on a weekend. Then anything around 9 lbs. or better was considered a doormat. These days, any fluke over 6 lbs. deserves a doormat rating, at least in my book!

If you're serious about your fluke fishing you should know that some big fluke inhabit the deep waters around local wrecks and other bottom structure. They lie there patiently waiting to ambush an easy meal without expending too much wasted energy. They are truly opportunistic feeders preferring to lie in wait for their next meal, rather than searching for it themselves. They know (as we should too) that any kind of bottom structure like a wreck or rocky bottom is the first ingredient in the food chain. Further on down the food chain, bait fish are attracted to the structure which, in turn, attracts the bigger fish such as fluke, blues and other structure oriented fish. Generally these fish are lazy and can be found all around the perimeter of the rocks on the smooth bottom.

What we have to do is cover a lot of that ground until we find the productive areas. Then it's just a matter of concentrating on those spots. A chart recorder will help you find the edges of the rocky structure, and a marker buoy will help you keep track of a productive spot. Drifting is the ideal way to cover a lot of ground. What you want to do is to try and set up a drift pattern that will enable you to drift along the sides of the structure over the smooth bottom. Obviously, this is easier said than done. If there is too much of a crosswind you will have to settle for shorter drifts perpendicular to the structure, working your way either inshore or offshore until you get some action.

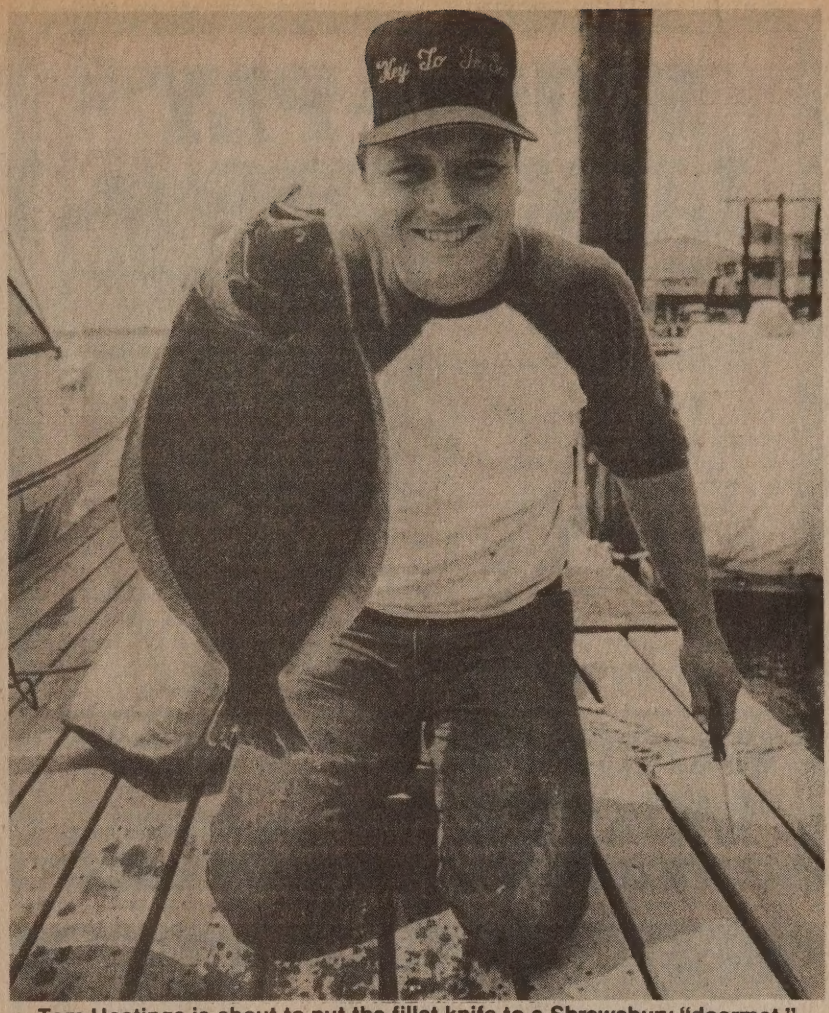
Sometimes, the combined effect of the wind and the current will force you to drift at an angle to or away from the rocky bottom structure. That's okay, just remember you want to concentrate your efforts as much as you can on the edge of the structure. If the bottom near the edge of the rocks fails to produce, try drifting a little bit further away from the bottom struc-



Chumming and trolling with wire both account for their share of big blues on these grounds.

ture. Work that side thoroughly first, but if no action is forthcoming, try the other side no matter how short those drifts might be. It may be easier to start your drift right over the edge of the rocks and drift away from them, but if there are no fish holding up there you're just wasting your time. If you find that your drifts are more productive drifting towards the rocks, keep one eye on your chart recorder and be ready to give the signal to reel up the minute you start marking those rocks. Drop a marker buoy the first sign of a hit and work that area until you've thoroughly exhausted it. these fluke like to stay close to a piece of bottom that makes it easy for them to ambush their prey. So make up a cheap marker buoy out of an old Clorox bleach bottle with about 75 feet of line and heavy weight and use it! Finding that first fluke or first bite is THE KEY to a successful day with the doormats. In general, you will probably find these fish in tight to the beach during high water and well offshore in the deeper water when the tide is low. You also might find the fish favoring one side of the structure during a certain stage of the tide. Just try and set up the best drift pattern you can and keep moving around until you hit pay dirt.

The old adage, "big baits catch big fish" certainly applies here. In order to entice these fluke to the hook, bigger than average baits are necessary. The most ideal baits are very large sand eels or spearing, but these aren't always available. I'm talking about sand eels that are about 8 inches long and spearing that's slightly smaller. If you can find sand eels and spearing that big and they look in pretty good condition grab them, because they really turn these fish on. They work on smaller fish, too, but because of the huge size of the bait itself, it will result in a lot of short hits and bite-offs. And it's almost a sin to waste such prime baits on average size fish that might not even make the 14 inch limit. If you can't find sand eels or spearing that big, you will have to use strip baits that will be easier to come by. Fluke belly makes a good strip bait as well as large squid. We have had very good results with freshly caught filleted snappers as bait, although we have not as yet had the opportunity to try them at Shrewsbury. Because they've worked so well elsewhere, I think they would be a good bet to work at "The Rocks." Filleted mackerel strips, as long as they are pretty fresh is another bait that should be given a shot. In short, any bait that you've had good results with in the past will work as long as it's **big** and **fresh**. Just make sure the strips are long and very narrow. Eight to 10 inches long about 1/2 inch wide is good, but make sure they are tapered so they'll flutter in the current. When using a filleted bait such as fluke belly, snappers, or mackerel as a strip bait, don't make them too thick or they won't flutter enticingly in the current. That will really inhibit their effectiveness. Think long and lean when using strip baits for fluke.



Tom Hastings is about to put the fillet knife to a Shrewsbury "doormat."

Your basic fluke rig will work with a couple of modifications. For these strip baits we need a special long shanked hook that has a small stinger hook welded near the eye of the hook. I'm not sure what they are called, but they look like the long shanked carlisle hook that was so popular for fluke in the past. These hooks come to 3/0 or 4/0 sizes which should be fine for our purposes and are available in Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook, Skippy's in East Rockaway and Lon Wanser's in Seaford. You'll have to snell them yourself, but use a little heavier leader than normal, and make it a little longer than usual about 3½ or 4 feet long. Use a three-way swivel and keep this rig 10 to 12 inches above a suitable weight bank sinker. Hook the end of your strip bait once on the small stinger hook and is not all bunched up on the shank of the hook.

I prefer conventional tackle for this type of fishing. I've found that a conventional reel gives you more line control when you have to drop back on these tentative feeders. A medium weight rod with a tip capable of handling up to 6 ounces of lead should do nicely. I've been using a Penn Squidder (always filled with fresh 20 lb. mono) for years and find the combination hard to beat. The same outfit also works quite well on bluefish which we'll discuss a little bit later on.

Now don't expect these big fluke to pounce on your baits aggressively, like their little brothers. Some adjustment in your share of Shrewsbury doormats. These fish simply grab your bait by the very end as it is slowly drifting overhead and hold on to it for awhile. You really won't feel a bite at all. You have to concentrate on the tempo of your bait bouncing along the bottom. When you feel that rhythmic bouncing stop, it's very likely that a hungry doormat has grabbed your bait. Once you feel that bouncing stop, **immediately** throw your reel into free spool and give him some line. This is the aforementioned "dropback technique" and is very important whenever doormat fluke are your target. While dropping back make sure you keep your thumb on the spool so you can keep a little tension on your line while free spooling. This is very important. If you can maintain enough tension on the line you'll actually feel the fluke ever so slightly nibbling on the bait as

(Continued on next page.)

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FISHING FOR BLUEFISH

By Al Ristori

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he's sucking it in, working his way up to the hook. This is when you will feel one or two solid bites and is your signal to stop giving him line. Throw your reel into gear and when the line comes tight, lift that rod high and hook yourself a doormat. This whole proces should take a good 10 seconds or so. Once you feel the pick-up you might slowly count to 10 before you even think about sinking the hook. "When in doubt, let it out" would be a good phrase to keep in mind trying to hook these sneaky feeders.

The first reaction of 90 percent of the lucky fishermen who hook into big fluke is that they are stuck on the bottom. At this point just keep your rod high and try to pry that fluke off the bottom. It isn't easy trying to break the suction of that big flat fish on the bottom. Once he is off the bottom, he will usally yet reluctantly come straight up off the bottom with an attempt at a short run or two. This is where you'll learn to appreciate a silky smooth drag system that is well maintained and properly adjusted. When he sees the boat, be ready for another short but determined run. Keep your large fluke net out of the water until you are ready to net him—always head first. Then keep these fish on ice until you are ready to convert them into some nice thick juicy fillets.

Unlike the doormats that inhabit the smooth bottom near the rocks, chopper bluefish will be found directly over the bottom structure. Most of the action on these blues will be found between the "I" buoy and the buoy that marks the inshore portion of the rocks. When the fish are close to shore and feeding high in the water column trolling with wire line and umbrellas will be your best bet. Just remember not to troll too deep because the inshore portion of the rock has claimed a lot of wire and umbrella rigs. When trolling you have to try to locate the fish by bird activity or marking them on your chart recorder. Then it's just a matter of taking ranges on the easily defined Jersey shoreline and working them thoroughly. Generally, I would restrict my trolling patterns to the inshore portions of the rocks, because if you are marking fish near the bottom in 55 feet of water and your wire line outfits will only get you down 30 feet, you would probably catch just as many bluefish as if you were trolling in freshwater reservoirs in upstate New York! A word to the wise should be sufficient. So when the fish are feeding tight to the bottom, chumming is the way to go. Once you are anchored up securely over what you hope will be a productive piece of bottom, it is time to set up shop. Some guys prefer the soup ladling method of chumming. That is too messy for me; so I just put a block of that frozen chum in a nylon net bag and hang it over the stern and let the tidal currents do the rest of the work. This is exactly the way we chum for shark and since we usually end up attracting

blues on our shark trips, that's a good enough indication to me that this method works quite well. Actually I think this method of chumming is better in the long run because bits of your chum will gradually reach the lower parts of the water column. When spooning a soupy mixture of chum overboard it would seem to me that most of the chum will stay on the top of the water. In all honesty it will probably spread out further this way, but the fish we are trying to attract should be holding tight to some bottom structure.

We use the standard bronze finished bluefish hook in 6/0 or 7/0 sizes. We prefer to use a hook with a lighter six inch trace of wire than most people do. I feel the lighter wire enables us to present the bait more naturally which could be the difference between just fishing and catching fish, when the blues are in a finicky mood. A conventional outfit similar to the one discussed earlier also works well for this kind of fishing. We just tie the barrel swivel to the mono line with a good double improved clinch knot and snug it up nice and tight. Now rather than just feeding out some line and waiting for a bite, we found that using a small piece of styrofoam as a float enables us to hook up with bluefish more consistently. Count off about 25 feet of line and this is where a small piece of styrofoam is used as a float. To attach it to your line, take your bait knife and make a shallow incision on opposite sides of the float, wrap your line around the float and jam the line into the cuts you just made. Now feed out enough to keep the float about 50 to 75 feet away from the boat. You can either leave the float here or continue feeding line by hand until you get a bite. We like to keep the float close to the boat because we feel less line out will result in a more positive hook-up. Keep your eye on the float and be careful to leave as little slack line as possible. As soon as the float goes down—immediately take up any slack and hit the fish. If you are constantly feeding line and waiting for a hit, you really don't know where your bait is in relation to the chum slick. Also without a float, by the time the bluefish takes up the slack and stretch in your line, and you react to the hit, many times it's too late, the bait is gone and the fish has spit the hook. In essence what we really have here is a mini-shark rig which seems to enable my crew to hook up more consistently. Another thing that we feel that gives us the edge is that we use filleted baits rather than chunks of mackerel (our first choice) or bunker. The filleted baits attract more fish by virtue of their flutter and also hook more fish than chunks. Each fillet should give you two or three baits depending on the size of the fish.

Without a doubt, doormat fluke and chopper bluefish are enough of a reason to visit some of that prime New Jersey real estate come late August and early September.

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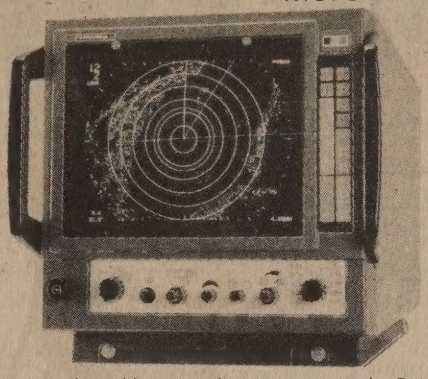

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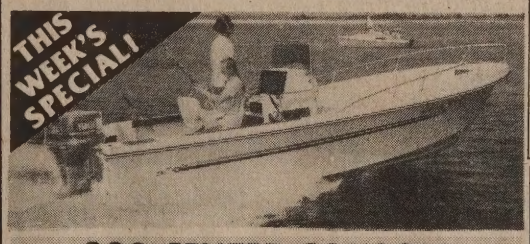

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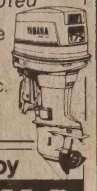

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THOSE DEADLY SPINNERBAITS

Part Two — *by Gary Caputi*

Here's more on how to take advantage of the versatility inherent in these popular bass lures.

In last week's discussion of spinnerbait fishing, we went over some of the basics of the lure and its component parts. We touched briefly on the misconceptions that surround this popular bait. Spinnerbait fishing is a science in itself because of the inherent versatility of the lure. Due to its design, it can be fished at most any depth, under many different conditions and at most times of the year.

These lures catch large and smallmouth bass equally well. They can be used with or without "trailers." A trailer on a spinnerbait is a plastic worm or Twister type tail strung onto the hook and long enough to trail behind the lure for added size and action. The option of adding a "trailer hook" to the existing jig hook is also available. This is usually done when the fish are striking short; i.e., only hitting the end of the skirt or trailer and not getting the jig hook. The trailer hook drops back off the jig hook and provides a little more advantage over those short striking fish. Trailer hooks usually come into play early in the year when the water is cold, the fish are sluggish and they are not hitting very hard. They also can be helpful at night when the fish are feeding as much by sensing the lure's movement in the water as they are by sight.

Let's take a look at some of the many ways a spinnerbait can be fished. The techniques we will go over are by no means the only ways you can fish these lures. They will give you some idea of the versatility of the spinnerbait and maybe open your eyes to some of the mistakes you have been making with them or some of the methods you have been overlooking. They might even help increase your catch of bass.

Let's start with some shallow water techniques that are popular and productive. When fishing spinnerbaits shallow, the lighter weight models are usually easier to use. The 1/4 to 3/8 ounce models work best. When fishing shallow water structures like stumps, rock piles and docks in less than 5 or 6 feet of water, here are some things to remember. Fish your lure close to the actual obstructions. The best way to do this is to cast over the structure and well behind it. Then retrieve it back to the structure. Do not make just one cast to a stump, for instance, and then leave it if you don't get a strike. Often a bass is laying right there, but doesn't strike because he is not actively feeding. That doesn't mean he can't be caught. Make repeated casts to the stump banging the lure into it. Many times you can aggravate the fish into hitting the spinnerbait. The noise created by the blade, especially when it is bumped into the object and the blade rotation is interrupted, has a way of making a bass mad. Mad enough to strike even though it has no interest in eating your offering.

Lightweight spinnerbaits fished over the top of submerged weed beds account for their share of bass.

This exact scene is vividly implanted in my mind. On a trip to Lake Anna in Virginia a couple of years back, I was fishing a stump-filled cove with a friend. Since I was in the front of the bass boat and doing the maneuvering of the boat with the trolling motor, I had first cast at a lot of prime stumps. One huge old cedar stump was back in a corner and looked for all the world like it had to be holding a big bass. I made six consecutive casts to that stump, running my spinnerbait to either side, bumping it with the lure and even pulling the lure over the top and dropping it into the water on the other side. All without a hit! As I swung the boat around to cast to another stump, my (now ex) fishing buddy layed a cast out to the same stump, using the same black spinnerbait and all hell broke loose. An enormous bass came out of the water and ran him all over the cove. A few minutes later, I was netting *his* 9 lb. hawg bass. I made six casts to that stump without even a ripple on the water. The fish decided he had enough of that damn thing buzzing around his stump on the seventh.

When I first started fishing spinnerbaits, I was unsure of their snagless

reputation around fallen trees and other types of obstructions. My very first day out with this lure that was new to me was in the company of one of the gentlemen who organized the B.A.S.S. Pro Tournament circuit many years ago. He convinced me to cast the spinnerbait right into the middle of some fallen trees.

"Snake that bugger right up over that big fallen tree's trunk and when it comes clankin' over the top, let it drop a few feet before you start retrievin' agin," he said. So I did, and a 6 lb. bass hit that spinnerbait so hard I couldn't believe my eyes. So here's another technique. When fishing obstructions you can run the lure over or through and when the lure clanks over the top, stop your retrieve and let it fall for a few feet. Be alert for a strike while the lure is falling.

Another shallow water structure method comes into play around weed beds that have a foot or so of water over the top. A light spinnerbait can be fished over the top and bass will actually come up out of the weeds to get it. If you can find the deep edges of the weeds once the spinnerbait reaches it, let it drop off down the front of it, before continuing your retrieve back to the boat. If the weed bed has holes or big open pockets in it, let the spinner bait drop down into these openings, too.

If the water over the weed bed is very narrow, or skinny like they call it in Florida, "buzzing" the spinnerbait can be productive. Keeping the rod tip high, retrieve quickly so the blade is right on the surface. It will create a clanking, gurgling noise that sometimes drives the bass crazy.

There are also many methods of using spinnerbaits for deep water fishing and this is where most anglers go to another lure, even though the spinnerbait is very effective in deep reaches. Since a spinnerbait is a jig with a spinner attached, you can fish it in ways similar to a plain jig. Make your cast and allow the lure to sink to the desired depth or right to the bottom. Be sure you are paying careful attention (spell that *concentrating* to the lure while it is falling. As much as 50 percent of the fish that hit spinnerbaits in deeper water do so while it is dropping. That is why I stress letting the lure sink on a tight line and keeping your eyes on the line. Often this type of strike can be detected by the line between the rod tip and where it enters the water just jumping slightly. If you see the line jump, even if you don't feel a hit, don't hesitate: set the hook. Bass won't hold onto a spinnerbait very long once it's in their mouth. It just doesn't feel really natural once they get hold of it.

When fishing steep rock walls, riprap around bridges or steep banks along the shoreline or even steep dropoffs out in the lake, you are actually just fishing the lure on the fall. For ease of feeling the blade turn as the lure sinks, that ball bearing swivel and light wire frame become invaluable. Most spinnerbaits have long upper wire arms from the bend of the wire where the line is attached to the spinner blade. In most applications that is fine, but on occasion, when a dropping spinnerbait what the fish are hitting, I keep some short-armed spinnerbaits handy. These short-armed baits are different because the distance to the blade from the bend places the blade almost directly above the jig. It makes the lure fall more evenly and straighter.

A deep running spinnerbait nailed this hefty largemouth for Patty Mermon.

When fishing deep structure, a slow straight retrieve through deep rock piles or obstructions can be productive. So can a slow jigging of the lure by lifting and then slowly dropping the rod tip so the lure rises and falls in the water close to the bottom and the blade spins very slowly. You can actually crawl the lure across the bottom clanking it into small objects on the bottom using these methods. Always experiment and vary retrieve styles and speeds until you get the one the fish respond to. Then stick with it until the action dies and go back to experimenting.

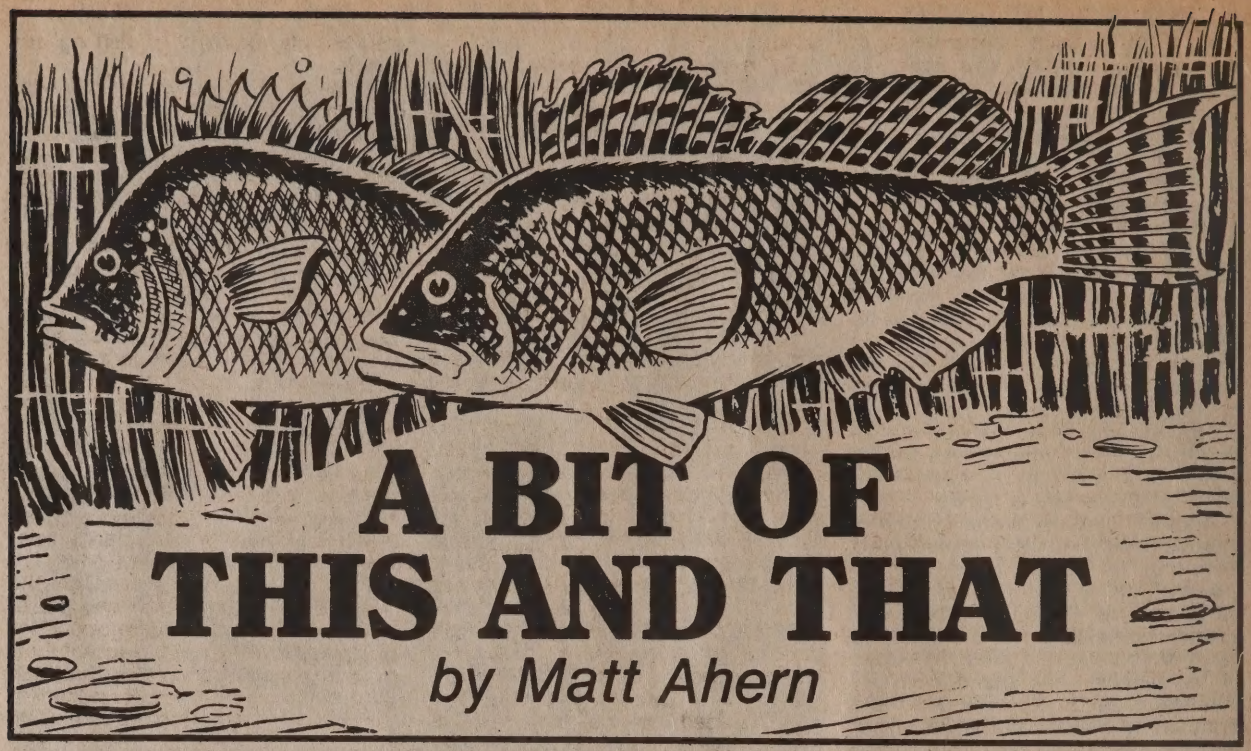
The last method of using spinnerbaits is high on my list of favorites. Fishing spinnerbaits at night is super fun. I love night fishing for bass anyhow, but many nights, the fish just won't come up and hit a surface plug. This does not mean they are not feeding, just not feeding on top.

Spinnerbaits are great night fishing lures for the same reason they are good lures in general. They not only present the jig as a visible target and provide flash to attract the fish with the blade, but the blade transmits a pulsed vibration into the water that attracts fish, allows them to sense the lure's approach at a distance and tell if it is coming their way. The vibrations give the bass a target even in the dark. There are certain components to utilize when fishing spinnerbaits at night. First, use a spinnerbait with a big, black skirt. I usually add a good size trailer, sometimes plastic worms or twister tails as large as 6 or 7 inches. Black becaue it silhouettes best against the light night sky above so the fish can see it when he gets close and the big tail to offer a more substantial target to hit.

Then use the biggest blades you've got to set up a strong, throbbing pulse to the lure to alert the bass of its presence. Blade color is not important at night, since the low light conditions do not make for much flash. It's the vibration that brings the fish in to hit the lure.

At night the spinnerbait can be fished deep, shallow, buzzed or drop fished, depending on what type of structure you are fishing. What it does is take away the one dimensional approach to night fishing with only surface lures. They provide a lot of excitement when night fishing and they can be the most productive lure in the tackle box for nocturnal use.

Hopefully this information will help make you more aware of the potential spinnerbaits offers the serious bass fisherman. If nothing else, it should give you food for thought about the many ways these versatile lures can be used to catch bass. Now, go try a few!



A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

by Matt Ahern

For those who are interested in a look-back at the beginning of my fishing life over 60 years ago (and also to satisfy numerous requests to do so), let me say that Issues 37 and 38 will do just that and I certainly hope you will enjoy the reminiscences of an old fisherman.

Obviously, such a time span could not be compressed into two articles and still cover all bases. What events to use and what not to was purely a matter of how important each were to the overall picture. Therefore, many incidents which meant so much to me at the time of their occurrence had to be abandoned if they interfered with the continuity of the articles. Hence, the title above—which is actually a catchall phrase for many of those stories placed aside by necessity for some future time.

You may be sure there are as many stories to choose from, but I don't believe I'll ever forget a 658 lb. ocean sunfish gaffed one bright September day on the inshore Seabright, New Jersey grounds. I was one of the mates aboard the old Rose R II out of Canarsie at the time, a time when I was still desperate to "learn the ropes."

I recall we had been catching sea porgies from one particular spot for a week or more; nothing huge, but few under one pound as I remember. During that week or so, we had the company of this huge sunfish who had apparently found the millions of tiny jellyfish covering the surface of the sea as welcome as those porgies were to us. It had become the crew's obsession to capture that innocent, inoffensive creature if it could be done—I do not seek to absolve myself of this "crime," except to say that when you are 17-years old, anything which smacks of adventure is indeed welcome.

Whether ocean sunfish enter shallow water (30 to 35 feet), I don't know, for we had never seen one that close inshore before. I also remember a pod of whales cavorting on the surface about three or four miles farther offshore, feeding evidently on jellyfish too. I recall this pod consisted of two adults, perhaps 35 to 40 feet in length and three smaller members, probably 15 to 20 feet.

These sizes are pure guesswork on my part; perhaps they were smaller or larger. But I know one thing: they were indeed wary. Various small boats attempted to approach the beasts, but the closest they got was probably a half mile before the whales became alerted, whereupon they became frightened and would slowly submerge, not to resurface for an hour, or so. It was indeed something to watch.

As for our sunfish, day after day it would approach us, but never close enough to endanger itself. And day after day as it went through this ritual, we mates would grab a gaff and stand at the rail, waiting for a closer approach. Several days passed in this manner and eventually we tired of the game and returned to fishing—which is something we should have been doing all along.

But one afternoon just before whistle time, when all thoughts of the sunfish were forgotten, it happened. One of our passengers cried out "Shark! Shark!" There, fewer than 25 feet off the starboard, a huge, ponderous dorsal fin moved erratically through the water, which, I thought, was certainly not the swimming actions of a streamlined shark. But it could be our sunfish. And it was.

Seeming for some unexplained reason to forget our presence, the sunfish approached to within ten feet of the boat. Four of us, each with gaff in hand, waited for that enormous fish to swim within reach. The skipper had mounted the combing above the scuppers, and there he stood, braced against the top rail—much like a character from Melville's "Moby Dick," a gaff in place of the harpoon.

Fate, or whatever you wish to call it, plays many tricks. Just as our sunfish came within gaffing range, someone dropped a heavy object on deck. The sunfish, sensing the vibration, sounded. But when it reappeared, instead of bobbing up in safe territory, it popped up almost alongside the boat, right before us. The skipper reached down and drove the gaff into the creature's head.

For several seconds, it was just the skipper and the huge sunfish. I know this sounds almost impossible to believe, but our skipper actually kept that fish from sounding, giving us needed time to bring our gaffs into action. How he did this, I, for the life of me can't tell you. I know only that the strain was great, for he trembled with the exertion, arm muscles standing out like whipcord. And here was a man nearly 60 at the time, one who weighed no more than 140 pounds soaking wet, blessed with more stamina and strength than I.

One gaff handle snapped as if it were a matchstick, but eventually our numbers took their toll. When the struggling fish became quiet, we ran several heavy manila ropes about it and lashed the carcass to the rail. It was all over in 20 minutes—but what minutes they were!

The dorsal fin was well over three feet high and I and several passen-

gers cut off sections as mementos of the occasion. Its skin was similar to shark, and I nailed my piece to the kitchen closet when I got home. For many years it was used to strike matches on.

On the way in, I was sorting sinkers and putting the wheelhouse to rights when the skipper turned to me and said something I'll never forget. "Marty, boy, that was a bad thing we did today. Never will I do it again. If this fish was good for food, we could excuse ourselves, for we have dominion over the beasts of the land and the fish of the sea. But to do what we did is a sin against God."

The fish was removed from the boat when we arrived at the Canarsie shore, weighed on platform scales, placed back on the boat—and dumped at sea the next morning. Truly a waste and a sin against God, as the skipper said.

We fellows know fishing is a grand sport, yet it isn't so tame as to be considered safe. The smart fisherman is the one who keeps on his toes. I've had my share of minor (and major) close calls, as do all who religiously follow the sport. Most of these are of minor consequence and mean little: knife cuts while slicing bait in a hurry, or while filleting fish. These are to be expected. Slips and falls on a wet deck on blustery days are always a hazard. They are part of the game and we do our best to avoid them. But occasionally in the excitement of the moment, a fisherman does fail to keep his wits about him.

And this is exactly what I failed to do one winter day.

The winter before the sunfish incident, codfishing had been very good. (And this was during the days when party boats kept wheelbarrows close by for fishermen to carry their cod to their cars and trucks.) It was a codfishing season today's fishermen hope and pray for. Unless you were a commercial fisherman that winter, two hours' fishing was all a guy could take. Truly, codfishing was phenomenal. In fact, the glut of fish was so great, the market price for cod brought in by commercial fishermen skidded to two cents a pound! All codfishing ceased for these fellows, for it no longer became profitable to fish.

And as usual with all such excellent codfishing seasons, the average fish isn't big—a 10 or 12 pounder can be considered large, with most averaging 4 to 6 pounds. And so it was that day.

I'm sure there must have been much competition for the existing food supply, for those fish attacked the bait with gusto. There was none of that stealthy snuggling up to the baited hook, much to the surprise of the fisherman when he discovers its unknown presence. I can only describe the bite as a savage blow. Pow! That winter the bottom must have been penciled with rods and reels donated by startled fishermen who failed to have a solid grip on their tackle.

But anyway, on this particular day I was on that same Rose R II and we were fishing the offshore Sea Bright, New Jersey grounds, pulling cod as fast as we could get the bait on bottom. I filled a butter tub, then a potato sack, and when the fish began to slosh around my feet, I quit. I knew we'd leave early; in fact, about that time most passengers had stopped fishing and had begun the sing-song chant of "Let's go home!"

But you know how it is with dedicated fishermen—they often find it difficult to quit no matter how fine the fishing. And so it was with me. Even with all the fish I could possibly want, I couldn't resist trying it once more. And besides, during those Depression days, there were always neighbors who would welcome a cod or two. I baited up, hit bottom, waited a minutes or so, got the bite I expected, hooked and reeled in the fish.

Lo and behold, I had accomplished something I'd dreamt of but never had succeeded in doing. I'd hooked into my first double-header cod.

Well, need I tell you how a 15/16 year old boy will act in such a circumstance. I yelled my head off for the gaff. Unfortunately, other mates were busy gaffing other cod and I just had to wait my turn. How long this would have taken, I don't know, but finally the skipper noticed my plight and came to the rescue.

"Which one do you want, Marty?" he asked as he reached over the rail.

"The big one, skipper! The big one!' I pointed at the cod, which actually was a fish of no more than 10 pounds, but a good one for the day.

And here is where I forgot the first rule when gaffing fish. Keep clear of that gaff! Don't be nosey. The skipper stuck the gaff into the fish, all right, but as he did, he came back hard and the bamboo's sharp butt end struck me in the left eye. At the time, I didn't believe even Jack Dempsey could have hit me much harder with one of his powerhouse right jabs.

I'm sure Someone was watching over me at that instant, for I came out of that mishap luckier than I had a right to expect. My main concern was not my eye—but what my parents might say. They might stop my fishing; if so, what then? But here again, I was lucky. After my dad checked my eye and was satisfied I would live, all he said was that he was certain I'd watch myself next time.

I still carry the scar and often while shaving, I notice it, which always brings my mind back to that day in the so long ago when a foolish boy forgot to mind his own business.

Now for a bit of humor and we'll call it a day.

Some time ago in reply to a reader's letter on the department of party boat fishermen when I was a youngster, I mentioned that I could recall only six cases of out and out drunkenness. In other words, we are all pretty good guys, with most of us having nothing else but the catching of fish on our minds.

Of those six instances of drunkenness, most of these fellows finished the day either seasick, or staggering down below to sleep it off. But one particular fellow, Gus by name, remains in my mind as a first-class example of fortitude.

This fellow was what today would be called a "falling-down" drunk. There was no question about that. Gus took more pratt falls than any vaudeville comedian I'd ever seen; falls which would have seriously injured a sober man. Let an extra-large sea come along and down he would go as if on command.

We were fishing the inshore Sea Bright grounds this particular day—again on the Rose R II. (I guess by now you know we old-timers considered Sea Bright a fisherman's paradise. It was certainly that.)

Well, anyway, we arrived on the grounds with Gus still in one piece. This particular spot was notorious for snagging, but if you could accept that, the chances of catching a big blackfish were pretty good. It wasn't unusual to nail an 8 or 10 pounder from time to time.

Gus was fishing with a handline and he was losing more hooks and sinkers than any human had a mortal right to. But this didn't faze him one bit. He would break off the rig, take another slug from his bootleg bottle, and say: "Gimme another rig, Cap. That's some fish down there. I can't budge the beggar." To try to explain that he had only fouled on the rocks became a lost cause, for he insisted it was a big fish.

Several hours went by and the fishing remained good; even Gus had a few decent blacks. His loss of rigs mounted as time went by, but I've got to say this for him: he was game all the way. The bergalls alone should have done him in. Anyway, between snagging bottom and picking himself off the deck, time passed.

And then it happened! Gus cried out: "Gotcha! Gotcha this time!" He strained at the handline, but most of us paid little attention, for it seemed nothing more than a repeat of a now familiar scene. But then someone close by called out that Gus really had a fish on, and it was a big one to boot.

I can still see the line slipping through Gus' fingers and I recall looking to the anchor to check if we were swinging. We weren't. Gus was hooked to a big fish.

By now everyone on board became interested in Gus' doings and shouted encouragement; some even going so far as to help him to his feet when necessary. And Gus proved to all he was made of stern stuff, for he landed that fish—a most beautiful striper which tipped the scales at 32 pounds at dockside.

Oh, me.

So, there you have but three incidents pulsing at my fingertips. There's many more and eventually we'll get to them.

SALTY FLY RODDING

by Fred Laager

The long wands, too, have their place in the salt.

I couldn't see the fly but I knew from the drag on the line that it must have landed on the far side of the rip some 30 yards out into the Sound. The fly was a white bucktail with a few strands of silver tinsel tied on the sides, a cheap fly; nothing special or beautiful, but it had been productive in the past and I had confidence in it. It was one of the standard patterns that I regularly carry for bluefish, durable to their teeth and expendable. All bluefish flies should be expendable. The hook was sharpened to a razor's edge.

As I moved the fly rod from left to right causing the fly to swim back and across the current, I noticed the advancing dawn creeping in, illuminating not only myself but the entire area. The rocks, the small beach, the birds heading out to sea and the not so large bay called Flax Pond.

The tide was ebbing and so was my enthusiasm when the sun bit the edge of the horizon and threw its first rays upon the silver sides of the fly. Taking a step into the current, I noticed that the fly line was arcing more than usual to my right and, as I pulled in some slack and lifted the rod tip vertically, the bluefish felt the sting of the steel.

Up came the line and up came the fish. Like a silver rocket, he launched himself from the surface shaking his head furiously trying to throw the hook that was lodged in his right jaw. Returning to his element he sought the deeper water and began to strip line off the reel. Within moments, there was no longer any fly line on the spool and only the mono backing connected me with the fish.

As I applied pressure to the spool, I began to slow him down until he came to a stop. Pulling in some 50 feet of backing, I had just managed to get the first of the fly line back on the reel when Mr. Bluefish made a strategic maneuver.

Now I don't really think that bluefish are capable of making any strategic moves, but this one made such a move. Perhaps it was some instinctual mechanism for survival that made the fish run straight into the rip because when he entered the current he doubled his pulling power and proceeded to empty my reel. With only three yards of backing left I stopped his second run, but his constant lateral movement against the outflow from Flax made it a chore to gain every foot of line on him.

I had been doing battle with the fish for almost ten minutes, a battle that would have been much shorter had the little brute not had the torrential current of the emptying bay to help him in his struggle for freedom. The muscles in my wrist were beginning to weaken, so I made a bold effort to turn the fish out of the current to my right where I could beach him in the shallows.

The line was almost at its breaking point as I muscled the fish into the eddy on the outside of the current. I noticed two other fish following him and a moment later they noticed me and quickly departed. Slowly I brought the fish up on to the pebbles and cradled him in a small pocket of running water. He was barely hooked in the upper right jaw and seemed healthy but tired. If he had been deeply hooked and bleedly badly I would have kept him, but this fellow seemed strong enough to do battle again some day, so I decided to release him.

Using a strong set of forceps I removed the fly and held the fish tail first in the shallows. Quickly he began to regain his strength and it wasn't long before he shot his way out into the Sound to swim with the countless thousands of his kind that make the Sound their feeding grounds.

As I sat on the beach tying on a new leader tippet, I thought of how I had come to be a saltwater fly rodder. I had lived on Long Island all of my life and I grew up using the standard tools for taking fish in this area. I had a trolling outfit, various surf casting outfits, boat spin outfits and all other manner of tackle designed and promoted as being the latest innovations in taking fish, every lure, rod and reel the bee's-knees of the angling world at one time or another.

With such an immense conglomeration of fishing paraphernalia I wondered why I had decided to pursue saltwater fish with what most people would consider a freshwater angling instrument. Since I was thirteen, I have been using the fly rod for taking trout in the Catskills and here on the Island. Becoming a saltwater

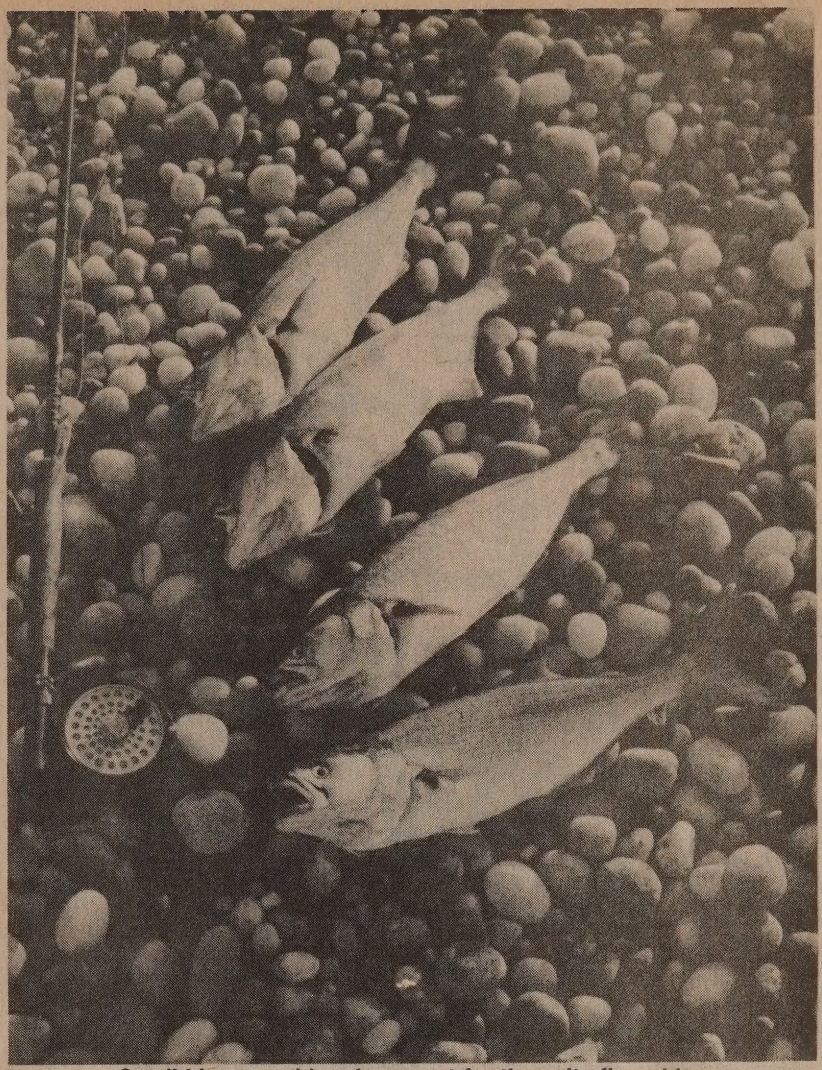
fly rodder required no more than casting a larger fly to larger fish or, at least, that's all I thought it would take.

There is a very big difference between using the fly rod in saltwater and in fresh and that is the availability of the fish to the angler. On a stream there are always trout and bass present and it is solely a matter of proper fly choice and presentation that will determine if you hook a fish or not. The average stream fisherman may walk two miles of river or stream in a morning's fishing, passing countless numbers of fish as he wades by. He may or may not catch fish, but he knows that they are there and that he must have done something wrong if he failed to entice one of them onto his hook. But such is not the case with the saltwater fly rodder.

Miles of beach may be void of game fish if an offshore breeze blows the baitfish out. The shorebound fly rodder will sit quite often on the beach eyeing the fish jumping merrily beyond his reach 100 yards from the beach. Worse than this is not being sure that the fish are there at all and quite often they aren't. Unlike the freshwater fisherman, the saltwater fly rodder might be casting all morning over water that has no fish in it. Unlike most trout and bass, blues, stripers and weakfish are always on the move covering large areas in a short amount of time. One day the stripers might be in close at Short Beach and the next day they may be gone. The blues might be tearing baitfish apart one morning at Shagwong and later that evening they might be in the Sluiceway near Old Silas Rock. Similarly the weakfish might make a blitz off of Port Jefferson one day and be off Miller Place the next. Clearly, the name of the game in saltwater is being mobile. You can't catch fish on a fly rod if no fish are there.

There is hope, however, for the salt water fly rodder and locating fish is not as hard as it might seem. Owning a boat gives you a definite advantage over those not as fortunate and it greatly increases the range you can cover. Generally, the smaller the boat, the better. Larger boats with larger engines spook the fish more and a smaller boat will allow you to fish in the flats where weakfish and small bass seek refuge from cooler waters.

Finding fish from shore is also an easy task if you know where and when to look for them. Fish characteristically are found in certain areas at certain times of the year during a certain tide. The best places to find fish is in any channel or inlet where warm bay water carries bait past larger feeding game fish. Here, the fly rodder stands an excellent chance of hooking up on a good fish on an outgoing tide. For the beginner, late summer offers an immediate initiation into the sport as small bluefish invade the bays and inlets eager to swallow any fly you cast to them.



Small blues provide prime sport for the salty fly rodder.

Fishing a moving current is also beneficial because it requires less effort in casting and working a fly. Fly casting, that is, casting a fly to a particular feeding fish, is a rare but enjoyable occurrence from shore. Most often the saltwater fly rodder will let his streamer fly drift with the current, jerking the fly every now and then to simulate an escaping or injured baitfish or shrimp. With this method hook-ups are fairly simple; the line is usually taut and most fish hook themselves.

There are two ways to begin saltwater fly fishing: one is to seek expert advice on the subject from a local tackle dealer that supplies saltwater fly fishing gear or join a club that specializes in the sport. The other way is to experiment on your own, but this method often involves many wasted investments and numerous disappointments. Many of the people who claim that saltwater fly fishing is a trivial waste of time either have never tried the sport or were doing everything wrong when they did. Basically, if you follow the expert's advice you will attain expert results.

I started saltwater fly rodding with a freshwater outfit, but found that the smaller rod and lighter line was only suitable for fishing from a boat where longer casting isn't necessary. In short, the longer rod is a better choice all around especially along the shore where even a moderate breeze can cut down your casting distance fifty percent or more.

Saltwater fly fishing is hardly a delicate sport, stripers and blues being brawling tackle busters, so the larger more weighty fly rod is the only way to go for the beginner. Don't be embarrassed by toting a big 9½ foot rod around with you, even though some people might accuse you of overkill. Even the best of the big sticks double over when a 10 lb. blue dances on the end of the line.

Unlike the freshwater fly reel, the saltwater fly reel contains a drag system much like the star drag found on conventional saltwater reels. The reasons for this are obvious when you consider the size of the fish you are after. In freshwater the only drag that is needed is applied to the line directly with the hand or fingers. To apply drag in this way to a saltwater

(Continued on next page.)

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fish of 15 lbs. or more could cause a serious burn. Reels with this type of drag are expensive and unless you will be going for only big fish from 15 to 100 lbs., they aren't needed at the beginning.

Large, inexpensive freshwater fly reels are all that is needed on the inshore species. They should be able to hold 100 yards of 15 or 30 lb. dacron backing and 75 feet of 9 to 11 weight forward fly line. Drag can be applied to the line on these reels by either of two methods. The first is to apply drag to the inner rim of the spool on the reel, but often you will find that you will burn your hand with this method. The other method I prefer is to wear a handball glove and apply pressure at first to the fly line directly and then to the spool when I am down to the backing. Any tight fitting leather glove will do so long as it is not clumsy to wear.

Fly choice is an easy subject and not nearly as complicated as it is in freshwater. Although there is a large number of flies to choose from, four basic types are all that is needed to subdue any fish on the Island. One fly should be a popping fly made from cork or balsa wood. This fly is effective on both stripers and blues and attracts the fish due to the noise it makes on the surface. This fly, painted in red, white or silver is the fly fishing counterpart to the surf caster's surface plug and is every bit as efective.

The other flies you carry should be streamers. Nothing larger than a 4/0 hook is needed and any color can produce fish. I find that white and red or a combination of both work best on any fly and a few strands of mylar or tinsel tied in the side adds to the fly's attractiveness. The two flies that I find are most productive are the Pflueger Shark Fly, one in size 2/0 and one size 4/0 and the Strawberry Blonde in similar sizes. When the fish are down deep I use weighted versions of both of these. Blues, stripers and weaks love anything that is attractive and each of these patterns fill that ticket and are durable as well.

My conversion from freshwater to saltwater was not without other advantages. Many freshwater tactics I found had practical applications in the briny as well. In freshwater, I frequently fished at night using colored beads in front of my lures. Using such beads in front of flies is also quite common when fishing for shad. So I tried a few luminous beads in front of my flies in saltwater and found that they do seem to promote more strikes than those without the beads, especially at night. A quick way I found of activating the beads is to use the flash attachment from my camera. Three flashes is all it takes to get the beads glowing brightly.

As with any fly fishing, using a tapered leader is very important. The taper of your fly line and leader allows the fly to be the last thing to hit the water. As the energy of the cast

decreases, so does the diameter of the line allowing the line and leader to loop out and land without curl-back or knots on the surface of the water. Buying pre-made tapered leaders is the easiest way to go, but making your own leaders is also quite simple. For a standard leader of 9 feet use 65 inches of 40 lb. test blood-knotted to a 21 inch section of 25 lb. test blood-knotted to another 21 inch section of 12 lb. test. These dimensions, roughly 3/5 butt, 1/5 taper and 1/5 tippet constitute the simplest, most practical leader I have used in saltwater. If you think a tapered leader really isn't necessary, you haven't done much fly fishing.

An appropriate fly line for saltwater use is a 9 to 11 weight forward floating line. The floating line is easier to pick up off the water and is an excellent choice for the beginner. Sinking lines, although good in situations where the fish are down deep, are very difficult to cast. Remember, for all-around use, it's easier to make a floating line sink that it is to make a sinking line float.

Though most saltwater fishing can be slow at times, those times when the fish are feeding give unequaled excitement. When blues, stripers or weaks move past in large numbers, the fishing can be furious and fast. Feeding fish will often pick up a fly on the surface and leap full bodied into the air. There is nothing more enjoyable than seeing the V wake of a feeding weakfish; casting a fly right in front of his nose, catching and landing the tiderunner and then watching him swim off after you release him. It is these times that your casting skill, fly choice and preparation can pay off giving you a special feeling of satisfaction.

As you become more proficient at the sport and develop better line and drag control you will find that you can step down to smaller freshwater tackle and still achieve the same results. Lighter tackle, I have found, will always produce more fish if used properly.

To outfit for saltwater flyfishing you don't have to be a millionaire. A suitable outfit consisting of rod, reel, line and flies can cost under $100. Waders, an extra expense, are only needed in cold water, so a good pair of sneakers and a pair of shorts is all you will need to be comfortable in the water in the summer months.

Recently saltwater fly fishing has become more popular in the Northeast. Undoubtedly, as seasons and bag limits are established, anglers will seek to put more sport into their fishing. They will look for more quality in the fishing rather than the quantity of fish caught. Though the fly rod might be more at home on the limestone waters of the Beaverkill or Navesink Rivers, and though it might never become the conventional means of catching fish in saltwater, it does provide a pleasant alternative to trolling or spinning and is every bit as fun.

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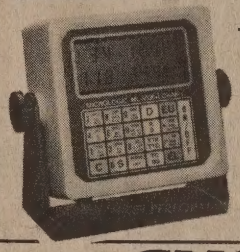

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LAST CALL FOR FLUKE

by Tom Schlichter

When school bells ring, it's time for fluke fans to change their tactics.

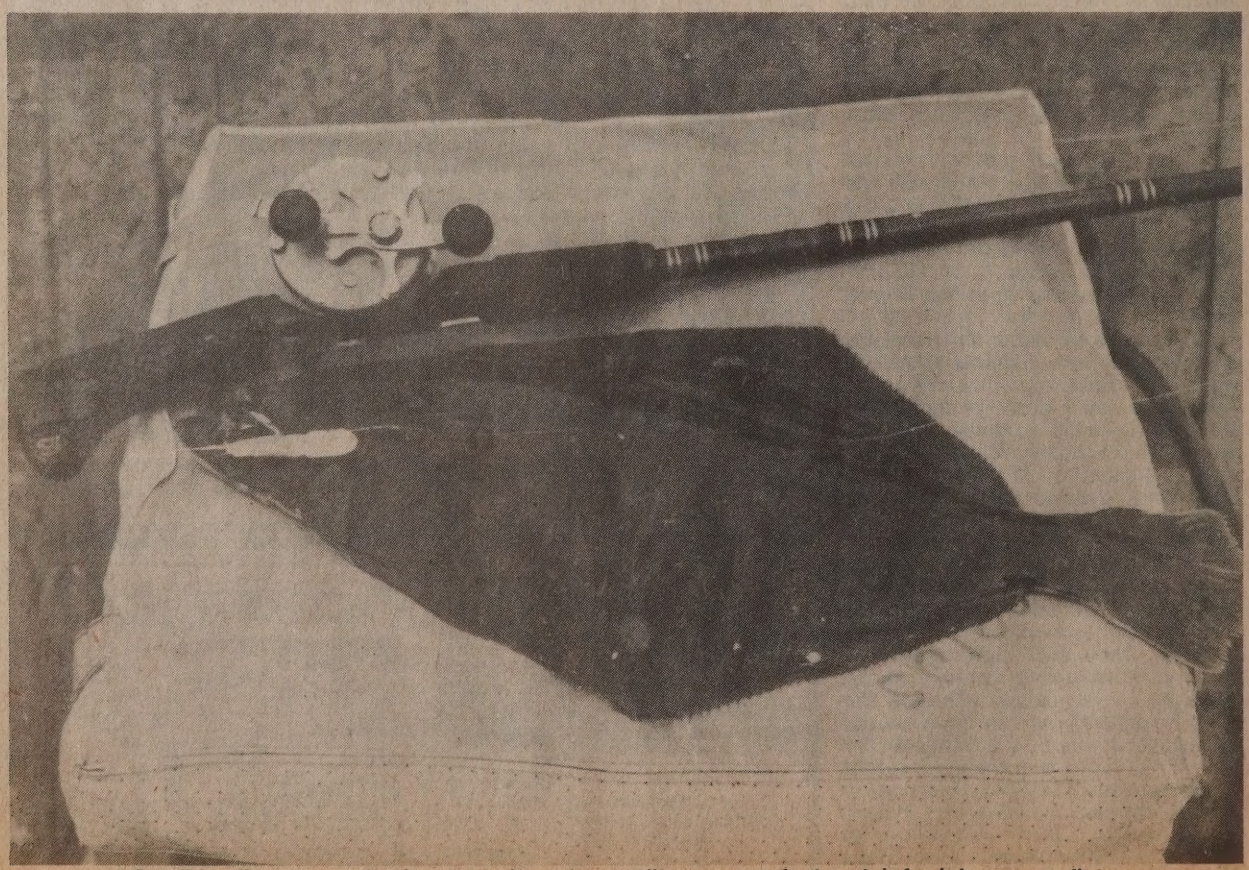
As the constant heat and humidity of late August is driven from our minds by the crisp, slightly chilled, high pressure systems of early and mid-September, the summer flounder of our south shore bays too are stimulated. With water temperatures declining by a degree or two a week, flatfish begin to think in terms of their annual offshore trek. Prior to pouring through the inlets, however, departing fluke generally make one last stop to gain some weight as a hedge against the lean times they will encounter until their return late next spring. For many of these fluke, this last stop will be made on the shallow sand bars which form in the area where inlets join the main body of each bay.

Throughout September, the ebbing tide rolls off the flats, gushing clouds of small baitfish over these bars and into the mainstream of current and, finally, depositing them in the deeper ocean waters outside the inlet. Here, stripers, weaks and blues intercept and eventually scatter the schools. As the baitfish are sucked over the sand bars, however, some of them decide, for one reason or another, that it is not yet time to leave. These fish dive to the bottom and settle for a rest in the troughs between bars until a slackening tide allows them to choose their own course. For the angler who can learn to spot these "resting places," a fabulous bonanza of fillets awaits.

This fall fishing is often fast paced and the fluke are so vicious at this time of year that the dropback method of taking them can usually be disregarded. The action I'm about to describe takes place primarily over sandy bottoms and in water from three to eight feet deep, lending itself ideal for light and medium tackle enthusiasts. Unfortunately, only shallow draft boats will be able to work these areas to their fullest without too much worry about grounding.

Now, let's get down to business. The first thing you need to know before setting out on the water in search of these fluke, is that not all sand bars are going to hold fish. If it was that easy, everybody would be sitting over his own bar! The most productive pieces of real estate are likely to be very short sand bars (30 or 40 yards in length) which lie vertical to, or quarter the current. Additionally, your success will improve if you can find a small series of these bars extending from a shallow flat. Every single south shore bay has at least two or three areas which fit this description exactly. In addition, there are sections of long bars which meet the same requirements. Only trial and error will help you learn which bars are going to work out. As a rule, the best areas are those which lie closest to the inlets.

The reason you must seek sand bars which lie vertical to the current is



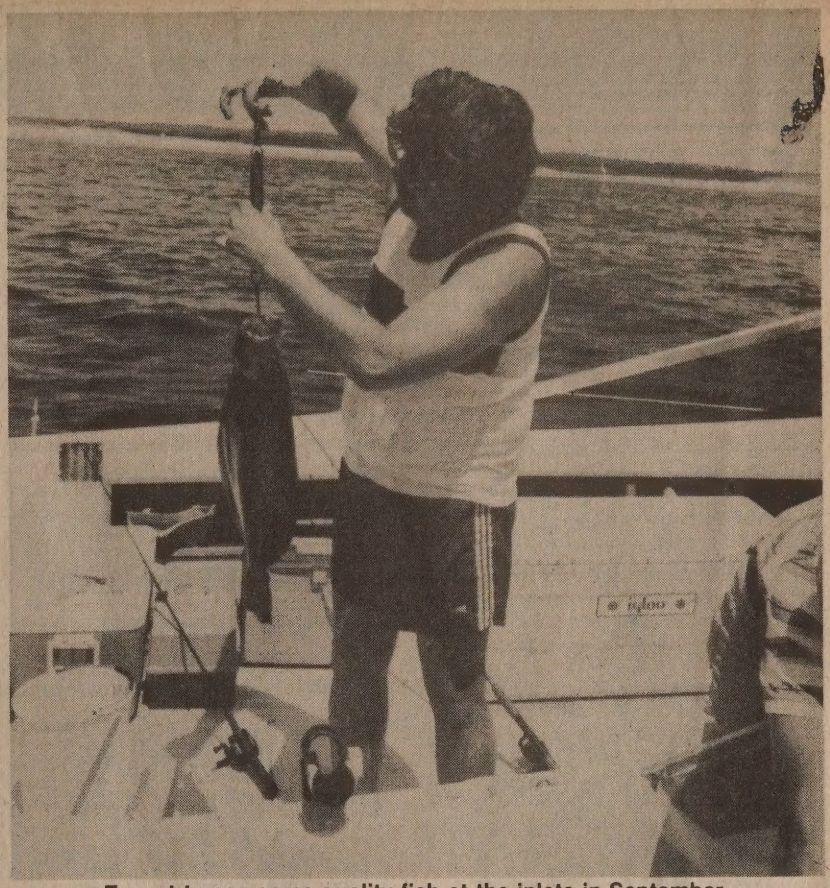
Small leadheads and freshwater baitcasting outfits are a perfect match for late season fluke.

because these type of structures offer the most protection to baitfish looking to escape a rushing tide. As they go over the bar, the baitfish dive for the bottom and stack up against the downtide side of the bar where water resistance and turbulence is least intense. It is very much like a person standing behind a car to escape a cold winter wind. If you position yourself just right, it is possible to block it out almost completely. It is quite apparent to anyone in this situation that a car parked vertical to the wind is the best choice; the same for the fish looking to get out of the current. The reason for finding these bars at the edge of a flat is because most shallow flats contain vast quantities of baitfish and these will have to pass over the bars in order to head for the inlets. The more fish that pass by, the greater the number which will have second thoughts and head for the bottom.

The main idea of this game is to find several bars in the same area and drift over the troughs between each one. On most days, direction of the tide will dictate that you drift across them; however, if the wind is blowing from the right direction, it is possible to run the base of the bar and drift the length of a trough. It sounds simple enough, I know, but the application can, at times, be rather difficult. Tide, wind and current speed will each conspire against you most of the time, making for extremely short drifts. Also, since the water you will be working is quite shallow, a constant watch must be kept to ensure that your craft is not grounded. If you find yourself moving back on the bar every five to ten minutes, then you have the right idea. I need not explain that this fishing is not usually what would be called relaxing. In fact, it gets pretty hairy at times as you try to work as close to the bar as possible without getting hung. Once you get the pattern down though, I'm sure you'll agree the rewards are usually well worth the aggravation.

The ideal setup for this kind of fishing is a six to seven foot light to medium taper rod, coupled with either a conventional or spinning reel that can handle lines in the 8 to 12 lb. test range. Since the water is so shallow in these areas, ultra-light enthusiasts can break out their 6 and 4 lb. test outfits and tiny jigs at the top and bottom of the tide. During the middle stages, two ounce jigs are best for holding bottom and these snap off too frequently with the light lines for my taste.

I have found jigs to be much more productive in this situation than bait. Two ounce leadheads or soft bodied plastics such as Sassy Shad and Salty Dogs (tipped with small pennants of squid) will usually out-score natural baits. The reason for this, I believe, is that these lures are more easily manipulated into looking like a frantic, disorientated, bait fish than is a sand eel strung out on a hook. Also, with the jigs, a more direct contact with the bottom may be made so that it is possible to know just where you stand in relation to the bottom.



Expect to see some quality fish at the inlets in September.

Presentation of your lure is a little different than most people are familiar with so let me take some time to explain it in detail. Once your boat is in a position to drift over the trough, your line should be cast 15 to 20 feet uptide. As soon as the jig hits the water, engage your reel and wait for the line to tighten. As you drift forward, the jig will roll across the bottom, swinging in an arc until it straightens out behind the boat. It is important that the line be directly on the bottom as it passes by you. As the current lifts the slack from your line at the completion of the arc, you should be able to feel the jig rise slightly off the bottom directly behind the boat. It should rise only two or three inches—no more. Most hits will come at this point—with no added action by the angler. Simply let the current do all the work.

The strike is often hard, although sometimes the fish can be a little lazy. From a fluke's perspective, that jig is a baitfish rising off the bottom to struggle in the current. It will quickly be gone again, so if it is to be eaten, it must be caught right away. Thus the strong strike. If there is no strike as soon as the lure comes off the bottom, jig it very lightly, three or four times. If this draws no response, free spool 8 or 10 feet of line and allow the jig to settle to the bottom where it will rise again as the slack tightens. After three tries, it's time to reel up and make another cast. Working the shortest line possible at all times will give you the greatest control over your lure and the best chance of detecting every hit.

The fish you should be taking at this time of year are predominantly keepers, but be sure to bring along a ruler and measure any specimen which appears close to the legal limit of 14 inches. Any shorts must be released unharmed.

Last fall, I had my best bar fishing over the last two weeks of September. The best way to cash in on this action is to watch the fishing reports. When the tackle shops begin to report that the fluke are massing at the inlets, it's time to make your move. The fishing can be red hot but it rarely lasts more than two or three weeks, so you have to be ready to go.

Before I leave you on your own, let me just remind you that since the drifts are extremely short, you should expect to catch only one to three fish on each pass. You will, however, make as many as 30 drifts for each **stage** of a tide, so if it seems that you are taking only a fish a drift, it will add up at day's end. Also, remember to bring along a net for it is at this time of year when some of the largest fluke are encountered. No one wants to realize they forgot this vital piece of equipment when that four or five pounder grabs hold.

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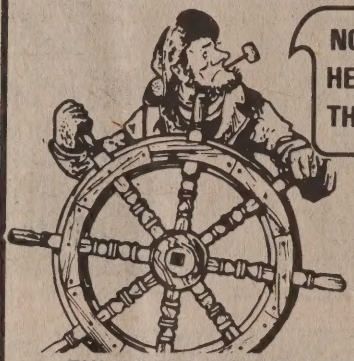

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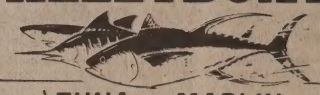

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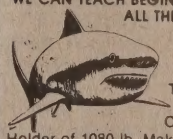

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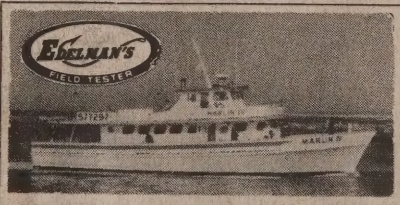

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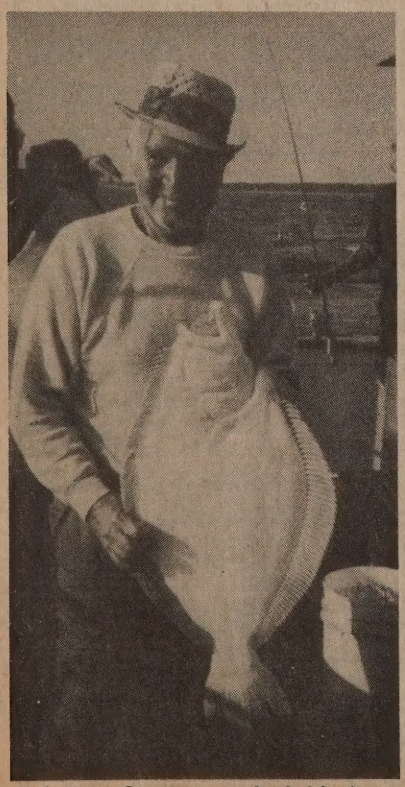
East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Most of the reports which came in Monday concerned action prior to the severe storm which hit the east end at 11 a.m. Friday morning. While fluke in Shinnecock and porgies in Montauk and the Peconics were feeding in full force by Sunday, other species apparently needed a few more days. Judging by the amount of school tuna, very large fluke and a body of gigantic bluefish which moved into east end waters just before the storm, this week should herald the beginning of some fine fall fishing.

MONTAUK

One of the largest giant tuna of the season was caught a week ago by Captain Paul Stern on the charter boat, **Tuna Tangler**. His mate (and Fiancee) Dawn, was on the rod. The fish weighed 1,041 on the scales at the **Montauk Marine Basin**. Captain Stern had caught a fish of over 700 pounds



George Casatuta decked this 12 lb. doormat during a recent trip aboard the Montauk open boat, "Marlin IV."

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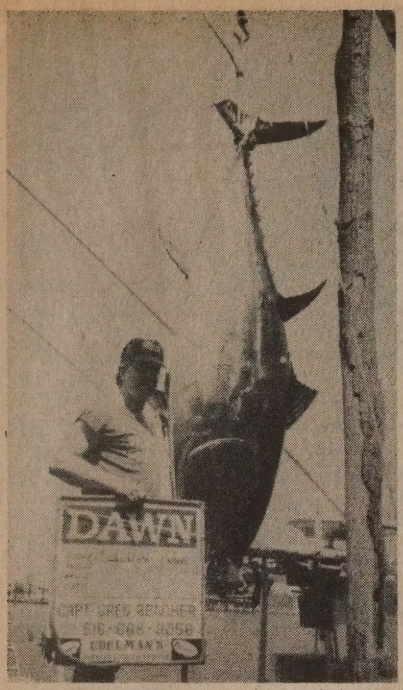

Walter Lindstrand whipped this 570 lb. giant bluefin in just a half hour's time aboard Capt. Greg Beacher's Montauk charter boat, "Dawn."

the previous day, bringing his season's catch to over 30 giants.

School tuna were red hot before the storm, with every expectation that it will pick up when the seas settle down. Fluking has been good all week with several outstanding hook and line catches brought into the **Marine Basin**. On Monday, August 26th, Jud York put two fluke of over 15 pounds into the fish box of his boat "Compas Rose". According to a spokesman for the marina, hot fluke spots include the North Rips, South Side, and Block Island.

Joan, speaking from **Captain's Cove Marina**, reported very good fluking before the storm, with doormats taken from the South Side. Porgies are holding up very well. Very nice sea bass have been brought in by many marina based boats. The private boat "Capt. Jay", owned by Joe Delamonico, came in with nine school tuna on its first attempt at this fishing. The fish were in the 40-80 pound range. Best bluefish action appeared to be at the Ledge, with all you want of very large blues.

Maureen Sennefelder of **Gone Fishing Marina** reports excellent doormat fluke on the south side, "quality, not quantity". Frank Savage fishing on the marina based boat "Mimi", returned to the marina with 15 fluke, top weight ten pounds, using spearing and squid combination. Best action was on the incoming tide. Bluefin (school) tuna were good until the storm. No reports have come in as of this writing (Monday).

Captain Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Allyssa Ann**, reports good school

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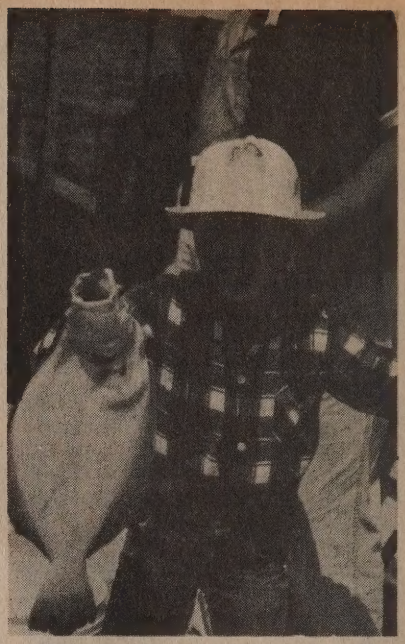

Six-year-old Andrew Casali landed this fine 20 inch fluke at Montauk on his first ever fishing trip. He was tutored by his granddad, Neil Jones.

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tuna before the east winds. During the week, Roy Rauert and Mike Samaski used bait for seven bluefins to 67 pounds. Because of bad weather, the **Allyssa Ann** fished inshore on the weekend, finding lots of small to medium porgies at Gardiner's Island and loads of bluefish in the Race taking jigs.

Weekend weather conditions ranging from "lumpy" to "unfishable" kept most boats tied to the dock at the **Star Island Yacht Club**, according to Charlie Fuchs. However, before the storm, there were plenty of school tuna around. Some anglers tried their hand at fluke, fishing the south side on Friday, resulting in many fluke, most in the 5-6 pound range brought in. However, Charile Moran fished on his boat "Charlie's Angels" with his teenage daughter who hooked and landed an eleven pound fluke!

Henry Uihlein spoke of very good fishing before the storm with anglers on **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** scoring very well. During the week, a double family group, Mark Kaplan and sons Ethan (age 10), and Noah (age 12), teamed up with Micha Dosik and his ten year old daughter Leah. The group bagged 60 porgies, fishing under the Light then tried fluking southwest of the Radar Tower. Using sea robin strips for bait, they caught six nice fluke, all weighing between four and seven pounds. Last Thursday, John and Don Green, with Sally Sickles, fished Cartwright on a **Uilhein's Rental**. Six huge bluefish (15-18 pounds) went for herring fished on a Cartwright drail. Henry will be exploring an early flounder report from an "old timer" of flatties at Culloden.

Lou Rosado got in a few hours of fluking on the **Edelman's** craft "Bullet", with Captain Ron Grandinetti (**Julie III**), his friend John, Dr. Faehr, and Nick. The group caught a dozen fluke, many in the six pound range and quit early, 11 a.m., when the skies blackened adn tornado warnings were issued. On Sunday, Rosado fished aboard Stan Isnick's boat "Malkesa" where some false albacore to 15 pounds were trolled at the East Fingers. Because of the abundance of bird life the group set up a shark slick in 67 degree water, finding lots of blue shark activity. Nine were fought and released at the boat. At one point a huge twenty foot great white looked over the boat and sniffed a hook baited with albacore, before it swam off. It appears that an excellent fall shark run maybe just around the corner.

Captain Richie Rade is fishing porgies daily on the **Marlin IV**, with anglers catching anywhere from 50-80 porgies per man of medium to large scup. A few sea bass and blackfish are adding spice to the catch. Night bluefish trips are a "slaughter" with 15-30 fish per angler a normal catch. Fish are in the 12-20 pound range. The larger fish caught on bait on the bottom, the smaller closer to the top. Seems that the fish are getting bigger with each passing week.

Both the **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud** are boating lots of porgies fishing local Montauk waters. On Friday's trip on the **Flying Cloud**, Rudy James (Queens) put 87 porgies in his bucket. On Sunday, on the **Little Bear**, the Hendrick's brought 150 porgies back to the Bronx. Steve Tittas and George Fournaris teamed for 121 porgies, while Ronald Burgess of Stratford, Ct., caught 87. Most fish are in the 1½ to 2 pound range.

According to Captain Forsberg, codfishing slowed a little, with less large fish around, however, good anglers are scoring well. A new body of BIG bluefish have moved in south of Block Island, providing **Viking** bluefish seekers with backbreaking action. Although fluke have slowed down in quantity, the size of the fish increased, which is normal this time of year. More and more sea bass and porgies are jumping on fluke baits. Starting next week, half day fluke trips will be scheduled from Tuesday to Friday. The first **Viking** school tuna trip is next Monday, September 9th. Noman's Land trips start September 12th. See ad for times and particulars.

The charter boat, **Pronto**, has been fishing school tuna on a daily basis, with Captain Mike Bentivegna Jr., usually finding the action has been generally very good at the crack of dawn. On Monday, August 26th, Al DeBlase, Nan Shevitz, Robin and Moshe Croudo, and Barry and Meri

Walfish had 30 hookups with yellowfin and bluefin tuna, mostly on diamond jigs. The fish were so "thick" that several fish were foul hooked on the jigs. On Friday, Bea and Dennis Lane, Manny Carallo, and Tony had an exceptional day with 15 hook-ups on tuna with best action on diamond jigs. Some of the fish were fought for over an hour before breaking off.

Mellissa Jones, 12 years old, caught her first yellowfin, 50 pounds, Thursday on the family boat "Puffin". She was glowing hours later.

On Thursday, Captain Mike Bentevegna Jr. (**Pronto**) and I joined John Richie for a tuna trip on the "20th Century Drifter" at the Butterfish Hole. The men, fishing with 30-50 pound test line boated four bluefins to 54 pounds. I lost two fish on my light line (16 pound test), one which was cut off by our anchor line as we tried to drop off, the other after a 45 minute fight. We ended the day with over a dozen fluke at Block Island on the change of tide.

Captain Mike Albronda of the **Montauk** said that school tuna fishing remains excellent with a mixture of yellowfin and bluefin, most days catching anywhere from 12-15 for a six man charter. Thursday's shark trip with Tom Fehn and friends located two brown sharks of approximately 150 pounds.

Captain Fritz Hubner connected with giant tuna twice last week, on the **Mistress Too**. Monday, August 26th, Captain Bob Young, who used to charter from Conneticut before he became a coach for the olympic skating team, was on the rod for a fish which weighed 727 pounds. On Sunday, while fishing school tuna at the Butterfish Hole, Captain Hubner put out heavy tackle when his recorder marked big fish. Mike Lovell and his friends fought and boated a giant of 547 pounds.

Captain Phil Lewis of the **Adios** has been concentrating on school tuna, finding most days very good but with an occasional slow day. Thursday's trip with Mr. Gromley boated eight tuna, although many others were hooked and fought before breaking off.

Captain Joe McBridé has been into school tuna all week, with some fish hitting the 100 pound mark. Dan McCarthy of Rochester, N.Y., tested his muscles on giant Cartwright bluefish. Since a few gaint tuna have been caught during the week, captains are quite optimistic about September's tuna outlook. There are several dates available on the **My-Mate** for both inshore and offshore charters for October. See ad for additional information.

I met Nonny Weinstock of the Poor Dossy at a fish cleaning station on Thursday, and admired his catch of big bluefish, the largest 16 pounds. Nonny revealed the "secret" of his successfel bluefishing: First stop anywhere from the jetty to Shagwong and snatch a few bunker. Take these to Cartwright. Cut the bunker into two inch or so pieces and impale on a diamond jig hook. Drop the jig to the bottom (180 ft.) and work up. Most of his fish hit at the halfway mark. That's all there is to it according to Nonny!

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SOUTH FORK

Last week's northeast winds disturbed the bay bottom, making it hard for weekend anglers to find fish willing to feed.

Dick at **Harbor Marina** in **Three Mile Harbor** reports that several marina boats tried for fluke at Napeague with poor results on Sunday. Since the fish were building up here (Buoy 2) before the storm, it it expected that calm weather will get them into a feeding mood again. Regulars tried Crow Shoals for porgies, expecting a good shot when the water clears up. Loads of snappers are all over. A few small stripers were caught and returned to the water at the Three Mile Harbor jetties. Most marina boats ran to Montuak (Cartwright) for blues.

Captain Artie Lach of the open boat **Wilhelric II** reports red hot porgy action, except on Saturday. Most days, high hook is at least 80-90 porgies. Last Friday, fishing a spot which had been untouched for a while, most anglers had between 60 and 80 scup with a fine showing of blackfish and sea bass in the catch. On Sunday, the fish were wiring, ready to leap on porgy baits. John Farlry of Jamaica caught 88, Margaret Brighart counted 83 and Calvin Haggs put 75 in his bucket. Last week's fluke trip at Montauk encountered strong moon tides and wind against tide drift. Captain Lach will be changing his sailing schedule soon, to include blackfish. Keep an eye on the ad.

Not much fishing activity at **Sherry and Joe Corr's Best Boatworks** over the weekend, due partly to the storm, partly to local festivities. However a short fluke trip in the East Channel by Ron Woodward produced six good size fluke. On Sunday, John and Rosemarie Elden put ten good fluke into the fishbox on the "Irish Mist" fishing the same area. Bluefish have moved into Shinnecock Inlet and outside to the sea buoy.

Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in **Sag Harbor** called Sunday a "fantastic porgy day", with great

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catches made on clams and worms at Cedar Point on rental skiffs. Sam and Bill Skammias caught over 400 porgies, in the half to one and a half pound range, with half dozen good size flounder. Sam Dalauta fishing alone in a skiff, brought back over 200 porgies. Most boats averaged from 200-250 scup. Lots of snappers in the bay, some reaching filleting size.

Thom Speckenback spoke of a brighter picture on the offshore scene over the weekend. When the winds lightned on Saturday afternoon, Peter Cipolla and Tony DeMar trolled in 130 feet of water outside of Shinnecock for four tuna, top weight 28 pounds. On Sunday, Roger Koster of Southampton and a friend limited out on bluefins from 50 to 80 pounds on their boat, "Red Head II". The fish took chunked baits at the Butterfish Hole. Shark activity has been reported to **Speck's Bait and Tackle**, mainly in 125 feet of water southwest of the inlet. Inshore, good fluking continues inside Shinnecock Inlet. Flounder remains steady, snappers are all over. Some fluke were taken on live snappers at Sebonac Inlet. A few school weaks (2-4 pounds) were caught in the Peconics during the week. Thom asked me to inform blackfish sharpies that he now has greencrabs in stock.

Captain Ken Malone of the Shinnecock Canal based open boat, **Jenny Rose**, said that fluking is still very good. When weather allows fishing outside the inlet, the average catch has been five to ten fluke per angler. On bad weather days, fluking is confined to the East Channel, were two to four fish per man is average. Captain Malone feels that fluking should hold strong for the next two to three weeks.

Private craft based at **Corr's Mariner's Cove** have been cashing in on the school tuna action at the Butterfish Hole, according to Larry Mangarillo in Hampton Bays. A few makos were also located on weekday fishing trips. Flounder sharpie, Eric Erker, has been fishing Buoy 19 in Shinnecock Bay, locating 30 flatties ranging from 1¾ to 2¾ pounds on a weekend trip. Sunday's fluke catches on rental skiffs averaged 12-16 fluke per boat, with one hot shot returning with 25 fish. Most fluking is done drifting the East Channel. Many small bluefish are roaming around, stealing fluke bait.

Captain Don Van DeWater has been tuna fishing several trips a week, occasionally stopping for blues on the way home. Ed Barth and his family from Texas caught tuna and bluefish on the **Dutch Treat**. Dr. John Eller returned with longfin albacore in the 50 pound range, chunking off Block Island. Last Wednesday, despite a "slow bite", Bud Hamell from S&J Pools and Spas of Riverhead, returned with six bluefins caught at the Butterfish Hole.

Lanny Molnar at **Molnar's Landing** reported a good catch of fluke at the inlet for Jimmy Delano aboard his

'Peace of Mind'. Fishing was done on the top of the Ebb with his catch topped off by a 5 pound flattie. On Sunday Steve Shinder aboard his 'Current Obsession' ran to the Butterfish Hole where he put away 7 tuna to 75 pounds on chunk bait. Some big blues to 19 pounds are at the inlet and being taken on live bunker. Pat Pellagrino has been doing a good job on these fish. Sea bass ranging from ½ to 2½ pounds being taken on squid strips at the Ponguogue Bridge.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Last week's dose of fall-like weather spurred the beginning of the transition to Autumn-like action. Fluke seem to be fading fast though there's still a chance at the usual September buildup at the inlets. Blackfish and sea bass picked up the slack for fluke fans in Great South Bay and several of the Captree open boats have already made the switch to tautog and sea bass. Offshore fishing looks like it could be chalked up as a loss. On the brighter side, bluefish seem to have had their eating shoes on since the influx of cooler weather. Good fishing has been underway day and night out of both Moriches and Fire Island Inlets. Big blues have taken up residence inside

E. Ramirez and Billy Salddana with 80 winter flounder caught on 8-7-85 in the "new cut" at Moriches. The pair used blood worms and clam chum and did their fishing out of L&M Marine in East Moriches.

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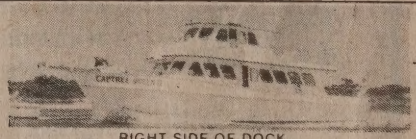
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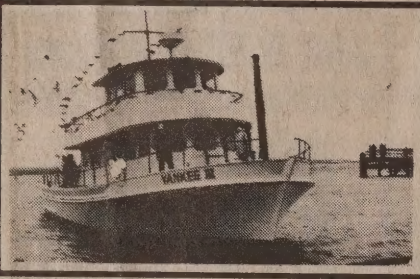

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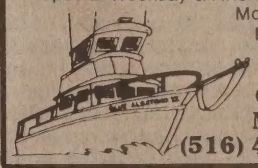

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these inlets as well. Snapper fishing is still a good bet at local piers with some large specimens being reported. Crabbing is hot and cold with quite a few small crabs being taken from the docks.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Big snappers including a few in the 12 to 15 inch range were taken in the Patchogue River this week, according to Joe Modica at **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Joe added that there has been some very good crabbing at the local docks as well. The Fire Island fluke picture was poor this week with no reports coming in from Moriches. Moriches Inlet is housing big bluefish up to 17 pounds. These are being taken by boatmen drifting live bunker. Joel Kobrin, Ginny Eberhardt and Larry Gambino, fishing aboard the Sundance on Sunday, put away 20 blues up to 14 pounds fishing 6 miles south of the Fire Island Lighthouse. They used chum and bait. Several customers stopped to report good blackfish catches made up in the Sound. Some also being taken locally at Kismet and at the Moriches Inlet jetties.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported big snappers in the river. Jennifer Bock had 38 snappers fishing from the Oakdale Beach Club on Monday. She also had 15 fluke, all shorts with the exception of one 2.5 pounder. Al knew of good bluefishing south of the lighthouse in 80' of water on Sunday but had no big game news to report for the area. Some big weaks still being livelined near the lighthouse and smaller weaks being taken on squid strips in East Channel and at Ocean Beach. Small porgies are at buoy 15.

From **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip**, Tom Leber reports weaks to 8 pounds at the Shore Thumb on live snappers and sandworms. Flounder fishing at the Sore Thumb was better than the fluking on the weekend. Fluke fans have had a tough time in recent days at the inlet. Blackfish and sea bass are being taken at Kismet as well as at the RM Bridge. Green crabs working best for the blacks. Snappers and crabs still at local docks with the best action in the early morning hours. Lots of small snappers still around with some large ones mixed with them.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** labelled it a slow week for fluke with some snappers and a few weakfish sprinkled in. He would like customers to know that he has made the switch to blackfish and sea bass and will be sailing bay trips on a daily basis at 7:30 AM.

It was not a good weekend for fluke according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. He may have a tough time convincing Mary Amsler, however. Fishing aboard 'Our Dream' on Sunday, Mary decked a 7 pound 10 ounce fluke while drifting opposite the Sore Thumb. Weaks in the 6 to 8 pound class were taken by boatmen drifting live snappers in the Oak Beach Cove on the weekend. Sunday and Monday saw blues in the 8 to 12 pound class camped just east of the NA Buoy where they are being worked over by wire line and umbrella rig trollers. Blues in the 5 to 7 pound class were settled into the 80 foot depths from south of the Light, east to Patchogue. Carl reminded that he now has blackfish bait in stock and that tautog are being taken on the Reef and at the bridges.

Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait and Tackle** provided ample proof of the showing of blackfish in local waters. He told of Robert O'Connor of North Babylon who weighed a 9½ pounder on Labor Day. The big tautog was taken from the Robert Moses Fishing Pier. The shop will also be well stocked with blackfish bait for this weekend. Despite it being a tough week for fluke a couple of nice fish were weighed in on Sunday. Richard Cordasci decked a 6 pounder aboard

the Capt. Scotty. Joseph Martignetti had a 5 pounder aboard the Capt. Dan. Snapper fishing remains very good from the Captree fishing pier. A final reminder that this weekend marks the Annual Snapper Derby sponsored by the shop and the state. It covers Saturday and Sunday and registration is on the days of the contest at Captree Bait and Tackle. Youngsters and adults are eligible to enter for no charge.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** reported a slow pick on fluke all week long. The best of the action is found at the inlet. Bluefishing on the other had was very good all week with most fish ranging from 3 to 8 pounds but with a few monsters mixing in. Wednesday night's pool fish tipped the scales at a hefty 18½ pounds. Sunday night saw fine action with Don Goldberg bagging 32 blues. Paul Schwartz counted 29 choppers while Joe Jones nailed 26. Fishing was done 2 miles south of the Fire Island ocean reef. The skipper reminded that beginning Friday, September 6, the boat will begin sailing 7AM daily for blacks, porgies and sea bass. Nightly bluefish trips will continue at 7PM.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** reported excellent bluefishing Friday, Saturday and Sunday on both day and night trips. Most of the fishing is being done south of the Fire Island Lighthouse in 60 to 80 feet of water. A reminder that the boat's special bluefish pool is over $2,000.

Capt. Carl Passero of the open boat **Miss Captree** labelled the fluking slow. He will be making the switch to full time wreck trips for sea bass, porgies and blacks a week earlier

Ron Nucatola used killy and squid combos to take 15 keeper fluke near can 9 in Fire Island Inlet. This 3¾ lber. topped his catch. It was weighed at Peppy's Bait and Tackle in East Islip.

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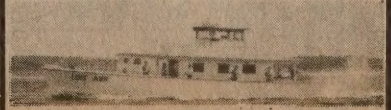

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than planned beginning Wednesday, September 4th, he will be sailing 8AM daily. He noted that all indications point to a good early run of fish on the wrecks. The boat will also continue its 6 to 10 PM bluefish trips but on a nightly basis along as the demand is there. Sunday was an especially good night with plenty of 2 to 6 pound blues taken just minutes from the inlet.

Tom Healy at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** noted the changing picture on the fishing front. Squid strips were accounting for quite a few sea bass at Kismet and the Robert Moses Bridge and quite a few guys traded in fluke bait for blackfish bait on the weekend. Tom labelled the fluking a real pick and noted that a fair number small flatties continue to be taken at the Sore Thumb. Some boatmen opted for the winter flatties in lieu of the poor fluking. Weakfish are being livelined on snappers at the inlet and on bunker and snappers in the western reaches of the State Channel. Pete Nowinski and his son Dave trolled and jigged 40 blues to 10 pounds fishing in 60' of water SW of the Inlet on Sunday. They also had 2 bonito. Big blues were settled on the Virginia Wreck in 170' of water. The canyon was quiet along with offshore fishing in general. Jim Miller trolled a pair of false albacore in 65' of water south of the Light on Sunday. On Saturday, Tom Vezo trolled 4 bonito south of Patchogue in 75' of water. Snappers and crabs remain steady at the Village Dock.

Over at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** Mike Andreani reported a big catch of blues for John Pateris Sr. and Jr. and Ken Steffens Sr. and Jr. late Sunday. The pair of father and son teams fished aboard the Tiderunner in 75' of water southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Fluking was real poor in recent days but blackfish and sea bass have helped pick up the slack. The shop will be stocked with blackfish bait for this weekend. Lots of snappers being taken at the local docks.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** reported a catch of 24 blues for Tim Morrow and friends on Friday. Some of the fish range between 12

LIF subscriber Ed Quaranta caught this 8¼ lb. weak while fluke fishing in Fire Island Inlet on his dad's boat, Forty Watt.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	12:00	12:20	12:55	1:20	12:40	1:15	1:50	2:15	3:30	3:40	3:35	4:00	12:00	12:30	9/5
FRI.	12:45	1:05	1:40	2:05	1:20	1:50	2:40	3:05	4:10	4:25	4:25	4:45	12:50	1:25	9/6
SAT.	1:30	1:55	2:25	3:00	2:05	2:35	3:40	4:00	5:00	5:15	5:20	5:40	1:45	2:20	9/7
SUN.	2:25	2:50	3:25	4:00	3:00	3:35	4:40	4:55	6:00	6:10	6:15	6:35	2:45	3:20	9/8
MON.	3:35	4:00	4:25	5:00	4:15	4:45	5:40	5:50	7:10	7:15	7:15	7:35	3:50	4:20	9/9
TUES.	4:45	5:05	5:25	5:55	5:30	5:45	6:40	6:45	8:30	8:20	8:10	8:30	4:50	5:15	9/10
WED.	5:45	6:05	6:25	6:50	6:30	6:45	7:25	7:35	9:25	9:20	9:05	9:25	5:40	6:05	9/11
THURS.	6:40	6:55	7:15	7:40	7:20	7:30	8:05	8:20	10:05	10:10	9:55	10:10	6:30	6:50	9/12

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/5	6:29	7:25
FRI. 9/6	6:30	7:24
SAT. 9/7	6:31	7:23
SUN. 9/8	6:32	7:22
MON. 9/9	6:33	7:21
TUE. 9/10	6:35	7:20
WED. 9/11	6:37	7:18

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/5	10:19PM	12:29PM
FRI. 9/6	10:52PM	1:30PM
SAT. 9/7	11:32PM	2:34PM
SUN. 9/8	—	3:33PM
MON. 9/9	12:21AM	4:27PM
TUE. 9/10	1:29AM	5:15PM
WED. 9/11	2:26AM	5:54PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
8/16	8/23	8/30	9/7

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:00	**3:50**	10:30	**4:15**
Fri.	10:50	**4:40**	11:20	**5:05**
Sat.	11:45	**5:35**	—	**6:00**
Sun.	12:15	**6:20**	12:30	**6:45**
Mon.	12:55	**7:10**	1:20	**7:35**
Tues.	1:50	**8:00**	2:10	**8:25**
Wed.	2:40	**8:50**	3:00	**9:20**
Thurs.	3:35	**9:40**	3:50	**10:05**

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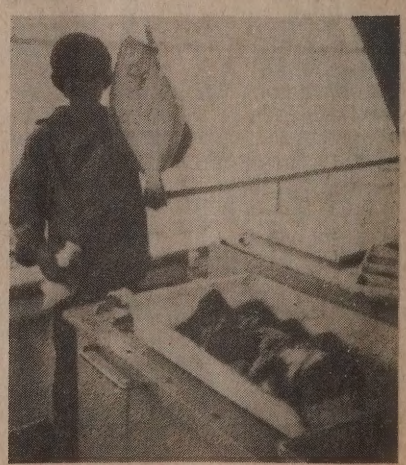

Richie Yates of Amityville with some nice fluke caught aboard the open boat, "Miss Babylon."

Andrea Black whipped this 371 lb. thresher aboard the family boat, Black's Magic. The big shark was caught in the vicinity of the Virginia Wreck. Subscriber photo.

and 15 pounds, most are in the 4 to 7 pound class. Fishing was done 4 miles south of the lighthouse. Ralph told of George Mills and Jim Scarola who have been doing a steady job on stripers in the 10 to 20 pound class drifting sandworms in the State Channel on night tides. Some big weaks to 13 pounds along with an occasional big bass at the Wantagh Bridges on live bunker. This is nighttime fishing. Live snappers are accounting for some weaks on daytime tides. Ralph himself managed to put away 7 weaks in the 4 to 6 pound class at Ocean Beach on red Jellyworms last Monday. He sent Glen Rankin off to the same spot on Thursday. On the top of the outgoing Glen put away 9 weaks from 4 to 6 pounds also on red jellyworms. Ralph Lennon and his crew hit an offshore wreck on Sunday. They put away a nice catch of cod,

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FISHING

pollock and big sea bass. There was a derth of offshore news. with some boatmen running all the way to the canyon and doing nothing. Limited shark action in 120-140' of water. Flounder are being taken on worms near the Wantagh Bridges and in some of the deeper holes and snappers remain good. Crabbing has not been so hot of late according to Ralph.

Bob Vitale at **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** seconded the motions of both shop owners and boat captains concerning the poor fluking. He held out hope that the typical September run of fish would still develop at the inlets. He told of Jim Braun who put a nice catch of sea bass and porgies aboard his 'Sanity' on Monday at the Copiague Hole. Back on Thursday, Bob Rose and Fred Walters aboard the Reel Affair fished Four Corners with squid and worms and put away a nice mixed bag of sea bass, porgies, blowfish and snapper blues. Flounder being picked at the Sore Thumb and blackfish now providing some action at the Robert Moses Bridge. Some nice weaks being livelined on snappers and bunker at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges. On Thursday, Dave Pincus aboard the Hay Lady put away a box of blues from 5 to 7 pounds fishing south of the inlet. Snapper fishing remains good and crabbing holding up well at Tanner Park.

At **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**, Frank Pristera reported the sole tuna catch of the week. He told of the Angel Jean which returned from well out in the canyon with 10 tuna to 150 pounds. This was on Labor Day. Blues up to 12 pounds settled in near the NA Buoy on the weekend. Sea bass are on the south end of the Robert Moses Bridge and on the Kismet Reef. They are being taken on squid or clam bellies.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

As we move into the fall season, the fluke and bluefish catches of the week have been spotty, up and down, etc. However, there have been virtually no real rotten reports. It's just that some days have been much better than others. Floundering has started to pick up again being filled out with mixed bag catches of sand porgies, blacks and sea bass. Various bluefishing expeditions have been spectacular as will be noted further in this column. Offshore has been almost totally lacking in reports. BCCs and snappers have been red hot.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Beginning with the Seaford area we hear from **Lon Wanser Tackle** that the algae bloom seems to have held up the really good fluking this week. However, Jones Inlet provided the best action as did the piers, Haunts Creek and various areas of Sloop Channel. Lots of snappers all over the bay and big. Excellent blue claws at the Amityville cut in the flats and grassy areas, especially for those using scoop nets at night. Mike Schwartz of Massapequa had over 100 on one night trip. Sea bass and sand porgies in the bay on bloods with Massapequa Cove and the 3d Wantagh bridge strongest. Blackfish starting on wrecks and at the Big M and some good weakfishing on live snappers at the 2 and 3 Wantagh bridges and black banks.

A call from Captain Brian of the **Chinco III** told of excellent flounder fishing all week. Full day trips saw high hooks into the 50s and half day trips had high hooks into the 40s. Fish averaged 3/4 lbs. hitting worm and clam.

We learn from John at **Pop's Fishing Station** of sporadic fluke activity but with more total fish around. Mixed bag time has definitely started said John, with flounders, porgies, snappers, sea bass and fluke making life interesting. Massapequa Cove was a good spot as was the west side of the Wantagh Parkways. The east side produced more consistent fluking. William Post Sr. and Jr. on Monday bagged a 6 lb. fluke at buoy 14 on a killie-squid combo. Very good BCCs off Massapequa and Fort Neck Point. The water is still murky said John and crab traps are working best.

We hear from **Causeway Bait and**

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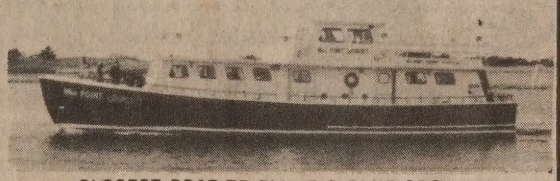

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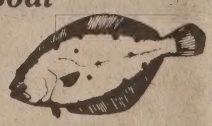

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Tackle in Wantagh of Pete Fama who, on Tuesday took a 7 lb. 8 oz. black and a 4 lb. 9 oz. black on green crab fishing the Jones Beach jetty. Blues have been a good item at Cholera on bait and chum. Decent catches of fluke off Howard Johnson's on spearing and killies, while lots of porgies, sea bass and blackfish are making anglers smile at theBig M on clam and worm. Flounder activity has been good off Short Beach CG.

Gary at **Garon's Tackle** in Merrick told of his customers finding decent fluking in Jones Inlet and just outside thereof picking up on killie squid combos. Blackfish seem to be starting at the Big M on fiddlers and green crab. BCCs in the canals and porgies at the first Meadowbrook bridge, while good catches of sea bass and flounder have been had at the Big M.

Aboard Capt. Mike Fanning's charter boat **Mirage** Saturday saw a charter for Quantum Personnel of Manhattan have some very good bluefish action with fish to 7 lbs. south of Jones Tower in 70 ft. of water. Fish fell to jigs and to baited hooks with trolling being done in the lulls. On Thursday and Friday, the boat fished in the Arthur Smith Bluefish Tournament, carrying a group fro Herman's Sporting Goods, taking choppers to 16 lbs. at 17 Fathoms.

Moving over to the **Freeport Fleet** we hear from the **Captain Lou Fleet** that these two boats are now switching over to flounder on all trips.

A call from the charter boat **Lady J III** told of good bluefishing for their charters this week mainly on bait from Cholera to 17 on hard bottom, fish 3 to 17 lbs. Fares also jigged blues off the Jersey coast from 3/4 to 2 lbs. , with a bonus catch of sea bass and ling on the jigs. Tuesday's trip was for John Adams Life Insurance Co., having good local fluking mainly in Jones Inlet. Wednesday's trip was for J.P. Stevens Co., NYC, baiting blues.

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Thursday's trip was for the Joe Golutta group which jigged blues while on Saturday a charter from the NY Stock Exchange led by Sal Celi both baited and jigged blues. Sunday's trip for the Howard Kersh group of Pearl River had blues on biat and chum. Sunday night's trip for the Chuck Cali party baited and chummed blues while on Monday the Phil Lo-Presti group from Danbury, CT trolled albes.

Aboard the charter boat **Corsair** Satuday's trip for the George Alexander party had a very good day fishing Cholera for blues 3 to 5 lbs. with the big fish of the day running 13 and 14 lbs., all on butters and chum. Sunday's bluefish at Cholera for Selkirk Metalbestos had fish averaging 1 to 5 lbs. plus a 14 lb. albe on butters and chum. Pool blue of the day was a 12 lber. for Jerry Goldberg.

We hear from the **Starstream II** that the fishing varied from day to day this week and catches ran from 2 to 15 lbs. Saturday's day and night trip were off due to the storm but Sunday bounced back with fair catches and the night trip was rewarded with good results. On Labor Day action was fair said the skipper. The boat has chummed Cholera a couple of days this week and at night is finding things more consistent than the day trips, mainly at 3 Sisters, of course with the exception of the stormy Friday and Saturday nights. There have been a a few bonito and albacore mixed in to every trip's catch.

We hear from the **Capt. Andy II** that his two trips a day continue to do well on flounder which have bounced back from last week's slide. Fish are averaging 3/4 lbs. with 2 lbers. winning the pools. Worm and clam appear to be working best with pin bass, sand porgies, short stripers and sea bass mixed in, all locally.

A call from the **Bluefin Fleet** said this was a lunker week with larger blues to come. The largest blue of the week said Capt. Sy Carlin was an 18 lber. for Bentley Iacona of JFK. Bob of the Board of Ed took a 15 lber. while Frank Scinto of Great Neck had a 13 lber. and Karen McCauley was high hook of the week with 24 choppers. Best action was south and southwest of Jones Inlet out to 100 ft. of water with most catches made on bait and chum.

A call from Capt. Mike Miller of the charter boat **Apus III** told of super bluefishing all this week with lots of jumbos working Cholera, Buoy 4 and 17 Fathoms. All areas are holding fish from 3 to 16 lbs. with bait and chum doing the best job. Action has been very very good and is consistent. In the past week's Arthur Smith Bluefish Tournament, Mike's boat placed 4th one day, 11th, another day and came in first in the Hatteras Division. Mike had heard of a few catches of scattered yft in the canyon area which he has heard has been cleaning up a bit.

From **Freeport Boatmens Association**, Bob said it's been a weak for

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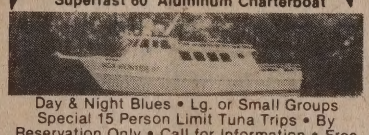

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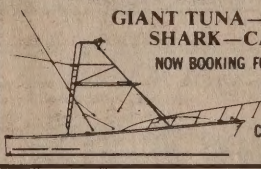

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This 6½ lb. fluke was caught by Bill Sauer of Ozone Park in Reynold's Channel. Bill fished out of Ed's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

blues and fluke for the most part. Fluking has been hot and cold with Jones Inlet everyone's best bet. The exception was the couple of days at the end of the week when the water was very rough there. Best bluefishing has been at Cholera and 17 fathoms days, while the night action has been at the Sisters. The **Super Spray II** has been picking away at the fluke in Jones Inlet and been having very decent catches of bluefish at night. Aboard the charter boat **Atlanti** mid week saw a load of skipjack taken in the HA areas.

Down in Pt. Lookout we hear from **Ed's Fishing Station** that blackfishing has been very good at the Big M on fiddlers, fish 2 to 3 lbs. Sunday's blackfish high hook was 45 for one rental skiff. Fluking has been good on the west side of the Loop bridge, incoming best with fish 2 to 3 lbs. all the way back to marker 20. Lots of 10 to 12 inch snappers ar ound fighting for the bait with cocktail blues with killies and spearing working best. Flounder catches have been good on the east side of the Big M and off the CG station on both tides. Sea bass running 4 to 5 lbs. are being caught at night off the West End jetty on crabs and clam, while bccs have been very good in the back and in the flats.

Word from **Scottie's Fishing Station** told of an increase in the blackfishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge with lots of 2 lber. being caught on fiddlers. Sand porgies are being taken on clam just about everywhere especially in the main channels while a few fluke are still hitting live killies in the inlets. Snappers have been excellent in Reynolds.

Word from the **Capt. Al** is of good bluefishing all week, day and night winding up the week with an absolutely excellent day at 17 fathoms Monday, 20 to 40 fish a man up to 18 lbs. with a few 6 to 8 lb. bonito mixed in. Fish are hitting both bait and diamonds. The boat chummed Middle Grounds Friday and Saturday for fish to 16 lbs. while it was jigs employed Sunday at the Warrior buoy for super fast action on 1 to 2 lbers. The early part of the week was a chum job at Cholera. Fish ran from 5 lbs. to jumbos and then some smaller fish off the Jersey coast. Night trips have been for the most part very good also. Al notes the fish are going more now for bait and chum rather than diamonds.

A call from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** told of some fair fluking this week in Jones Inlet. Wednesdays PM trip had Scott Grella with a 3½ lb. pool fish. Saturday's PM trip has Rich McBride with a 3¼ lb. pool winner. Sunday'a AM trip saw good results with Joe Mayo taking the pool with a 3½ lber. while on the PM trip Doris Matheis of Pt. Lookout took the pool with a 3½ lber. Except for Saturday night, the night bluefish trips have been great. Dorian Jo Murray, age 4, got her first fluke ever on the Saturday PM trip.

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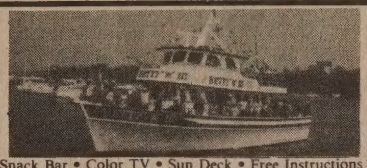

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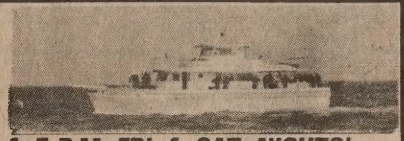

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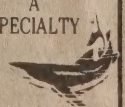

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there was very good bluefishing at the 3 Sisters Wednesday night for Northwest Orient Airlines. Saturday's trip for Double T FC had good sea bass action on a local wreck. High hook was Steve Kearny with 39 sea bass and a 2½ lb. sea bass for the pool. Low hook on the trip was 20. Sunday's trip for UPS picked away on jumbo blues 10 to 15 lbs. on bait.

We hear from Richie Keene at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook of Bob Sporano and 2 pals taking 24 good flounder Sunday off the Jones Beach pier. Best fluking was at Fundy bay just east of the Fundy bridge. The inlet also had some fluke around the turn of the high tide. Blues have been a fairly good item offshore and blue claws and snappers have been in great abundance in all the bays and canals.

From **Long Beach Boat Rentals** comes word of good fluke catches on the weekend. One of the better catches was 50 keepers to 3 lbs. for buddies Dennis and Bob Wagner and Ed Gurrucce using live killies at buoy 5. May Brody bagged a 3 lber. off the old high school. Some bass, blues and weaks being livelined in Reynolds underneath the bunker schools. Snappers excellent on small Kastmasters. BCCs abounding especially at Bay Park.

Word from Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** out of Atlantic Beach told he found the bluefishing this week to be fair with fish a lot smaller than last week. His parties have been taking catches of mixed bass and weakfish of varios sizes. Ron expects tuna to break loose in just about 2 weeks, despite the green water.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Word from **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** in East Rockaway is that the fluke appear to have picked up in the bay again, particularly in Reynolds Channel and also at Ambrose. Bluefishing at Cholera has been almost a sure thing, mainly on bait and chum w hile lots of blue claws and snappers abound.

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** on Jamaica Bay said that off both the North and South channel bridges lots of porgies are being caught on sand and blood worms and lots of snappers on spearing. BCCs are no problem with traps working just fine. Fluking has been picky on killie and squid baits. Lots of small, illegal striped bass at night. Lou Bologno bagged a 12 lb. blue fishing off the North Channel bridge Monday using bunker chunk. An unnamed angler managed a 2½ lb. fluke from the south channel bridge this week.

Out of Sheepshead Bay, Capt. Bob of the **Flamingo III** had been having good consistent bluefishing everyday this week, with different areas producing on different days. Monday saw

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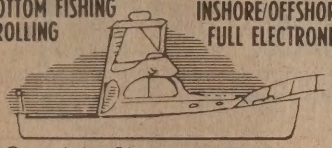

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17 fathoms produce very well for bigger fish. Friday was excellent in another area for 3 to 6 lbers. Sunday night was also excellent at 17 for mixed sized blues. A lot of striper activity and even a few keepers. Fifteen weaks were amongst the blues in Thursday's catch. Trips are combining jigging and baiting. Bob said it looks like fall activity is starting with mixed sizes and varieties being caught.

The Wee Willie report out of **Mike's Tackle** directly across from the fleet told of slow porgy and black fishing action but consistent fluking. Best bet has been bay bluefish with the smaller boats working the Can and Norton's Point, and the big boats working 17 Fathoms and beyond. Lots of blueclaws and snappers in the bay.

From the **Pilot II** we hear of very good blackfish and porgy catches Monday through Friday, blacks to 6 lbs. and porgies from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. Monday's weather was tough but nonetheless the skipper puts his fares over very good catches of ling, a true taste treat on the table. Sunday night's bluefish was very good, on 2 to 8 lbers. at 17 Fathoms.

From Captain Fred of the charter boat **Avatar** we hear of Sunday's trip for Weber Litho of Manhattan for George Weber and pal Neil Reiter. They had a dozen keeper fluke on the flood fishing the Tin Can. These were all 16 inch fish. This was followed up by some rapid bluefishing. Saturday's trip was a little better with 25 fluke ending up in the box. Fred passed on the news that $12,500 cash prize in the Arthur Smith Bluefish Tournamen for heaviest weight of 5 fish in 2 days of bluefishing went to Sheepshead Bay sharpies Red "Igor" and Don Ambrico.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

Poor weather characterized the Labor Day weekend, but the effects on the fishing scene were relatively small. Bluefish, porgies and fluke continued to please fishermen up and down the North Shore.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun and Tackle in New Rochelle marked bluefish in all sizes from 3 to 20 lbs. Trolling and diamond jigging produced school fish while bait fishing produced the slammers in the harbors. Livelining bunker was the ticket. We were told by John Palmieri that the **Klondike VIII** was doing very well on local blues without the need to travel very far. There were snappers all over and there were plenty of schools of porgies in the area, too.

Jack's Bait and Tackle weighed a 17.12 bass for Stan Zerneski; the fish was taken on a fresh chunk off the CBS tower. Some blues in slammer sizes were available although most fish were smaller than 12 lbs. The

Ira Drogin used a strip of fluke belly to take this 8 lb. fluke aboard his Eagle I off of the Rockaways. Subscriber photo.

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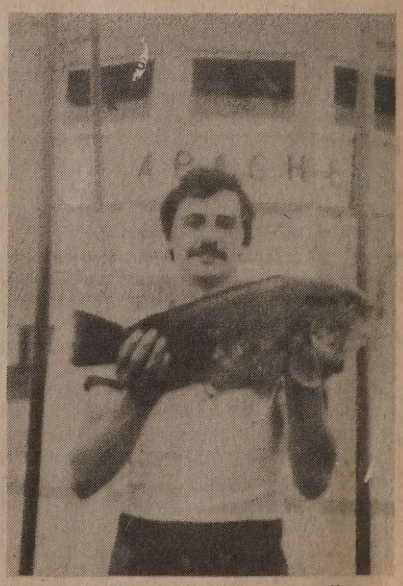
largest of the season so far is just over 20. There were lots of sand porgies available locally, but the **Apache** and the **North Star** were making their big play for scup on the Connecticut side with excellent fishing and many buckets of fish to show their fares. It's been the best porgy fishing in a long time.

John Cacciola of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** informed us that the Four Moon Tackle Association struck again last week. E.R. Johnson's 10 lb. bluefish was outpointed by bass of 12 and 15.2 taken by Ron Oldenburg and Art Miller. Sunday's bluefishing was a zoo, with continuous action for those fishing fresh bunker, but Monday dropped dead. Derby leaders include fish of 15.6, 14.2 and 11.0 in the first three places. Locals Walter Barron, John Dillon and Guy Fanning were among the entrants with a lot of blues in their catches.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** still like Huntington Harbor, Huntington Bay, Lloyds, Northport, Sand City and adjacent zones for bluefish in the area. Billy Collins will be sailing the **Ever Ready** on a daily schedule through Sunday before going back to a Friday, Saturday and Sunday listing, according to Valentine. There will be no more night trips. Collins has been producing steadily on 2 to 8 lb. fish in the Triangle area. There were still fluke in the Sand City-Centerport area with one 8 lber. posted last week. Porgies off Eatons, Makamah and Sand City



Steve Pavai displays the fine blackfish he took during a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat "Apache."

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were mostly small.

The **Greenlawn Sport Shop** weighed a 13.12 bluefish taken by Kris Jensen off Crescent Beach on a chunk bait. The Golf Course, Crab Meadow and Eatons were also targeted by the shop's customers. Asharoken was getting a play for small bass, too. Joe Dougherty weighed in a pair of 7½ lb. blues and two 7½ lb. bass taken while trolling.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport was excited about the bluefish action within walking distance of the store. Leaving the harbor, anglers could take slammers to 15 lbs. at the 5 mile marker by snagging bunkers, then rigging with a 2 ounce drail to get under the schools. Huntington, Sand City and Centerport were all good for blues under waves of menhaden. Clem Resedka weighed 4 fish from 12 to 15 lbs. and many anglers were not even bothering to weigh their slammers.

Bruce Cash of the **Prowler** from Port Jeff is going over to a charter schedule for the remainder of the season. He finished with 800 small blues Sunday in 3 torrid hours off New Haven for a group of 30 fares. Monday by contrast was a picky day.

The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** noted wall to wall bluefishermen on Monday off Cedar Beach and said that porgy action along the beaches seemed to be holding up nicely for small scup. There were loads of 8 to 9 inch snappers in the area, and Cedar Beach had a few fluke as well.

Al Sturges at the **Complete Angler**

Ten-year-old Alexis Iacono shows off her prize fluke, a 12½ lb. doormat. The huge flattie was taken on a spearing and squid combo off of Sand's Point in Long Island Sound.

hit the fluke twice off Mount Sinai last week. One trip produced 18 and another produced 40 keepers. The best fish was a 27 inch, 9 lber. All fish were taken on strip baits. No snapper interference, but lots of sea robins, said Sturges.

NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** said that there was a good showing of weakfish and some short bass in Plum Gut. Trolling local points produced some blues in the mid-teens on bucktails.

Liz Caraftis at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** explained that the porgy fishing was very good off the Motel and Coopers for mixed sizes of scup. Derek at **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** saw a number of fluke around the Inlet but was especially keen on the action for sub-keeper bass and larger bluefish to the east. Early and late fishing in 40 feet of water could produce larger blues for wire line fans.

Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** figured that the weather cut way back on the fishing in the South Race and Robins Island zones of Peconic Bay over the weekend. Still there were catches of 50 to 100 scup per boat from the Sandslide and buoy 30. John Mergeson again filled a half cooler with ease. No weakfish were reported.

The **Port of Egypt** weighed a pair of fluke between 7 and 7½ lbs. and saw a lot of porgies and bluefish from Jessups and the Middle Grounds. The feeling was that the fishing had definitely improved in the Bay.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** explained that Sekora and slab jigs by Bridgeports in 8 oz. sizes were big medicine for the 2 to 8 lb. blues in the Gut and Pigeon Rip. White felt that the beaches were definitely worth fishing for school bass and that the snapper fishing was now at peak. A number of weakfish and fluke were still being reported off Buoy 6.

The **Nancy Ann** boats had a busy time fishing the full moon for bass. Dan Buckley of the **Nancy Ann II** posted 11 keeper bass on Friday morning with the best fish weighing 23 lbs, while Richie Jensen's best night of the moon was Sunday, when Joe Cohen's charter bucktailed 20 linesiders. There are always plenty of bluefish to 8 lbs. mixed with every catch. Buckley expects to make 5 day of open boat trips for bass on the September moon, beginning on the 28th. Also, the Nancy Ann II will shift away from the torrid bluefishing after September 10 and will be flounder fishing on Mondays and Tuesdays wit the rest of the week spent on tautog.

Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** called to say that anglers can't get much better porgy action than the 60 to 100 fish averages that are coming right now with a lot of 1½ lb. fish mixing in. Some of the fishing is off Gardiners, some is in the deep waters of the Sound to the west and there is already a showing of a few large fish in the Connecticut waters to the east. Both Dave and Larry Porter of the **Brand X** expect this scup action to peak from the third week of September on.

A chat with John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** revealed that he's feeling much better and expects to be back at the helm later this season. In the meantime, other local skippers will be handling the boat's charter schedule.

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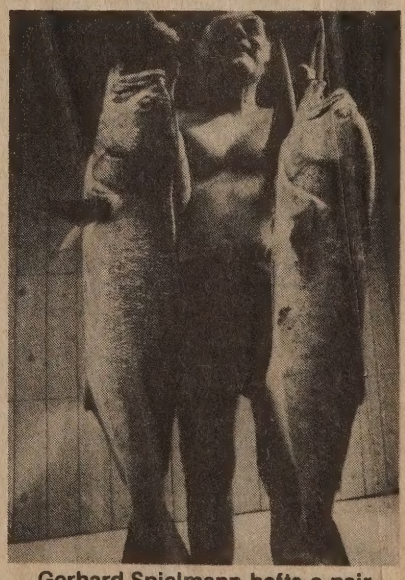
Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The calendar and last weekend's northeaster combined to trigger some semblance of fall action at South Shore inlets and at Montauk. Big blues were in evidence in the inlets over the weekend and also surprised casters on Montauk's north side. They also continued to make sporadic showings along North Shore beaches, particularly in the Rocky Point/Cedar Beach area.

From **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello reported a 25 pound striper taken on an eel at Smith Point back on Tuesday. Another striper of 25 pounds was gaffed by shop regular Dave Hassel for another nameless angler. This was Saturday night at the inlet. Some big blues were taken in Moriches Inlet on swimming plugs over the weekend. There was a flurry of action with big choppers on either Friday or Saturday night. Ozzie Von Helmond clicked with a 15 pound blue this Tuesday morning. It was taken on a Bomber. Small blues in the 2 to 5 pound range have been providing fairly steady action along Cupsogue. Tins and poppers taking the fish in the early morning and evening hours.

Back along the Fire Island shore, Peter Paterson used a #3 Hopkins and a teaser to take 8 blues between 2 and 3 pounds as well as his first striper. The blues and the 7 pound bass were taken from the beach at Saltaire on Sunday evening.

From **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Vitale reported an 18 pound striper for Scott Smyth. It was taken on a Hellcat in Fire Island Inlet. An occasional big bluefish being taken on chunk bait at Fire Island and



Gerhard Spielmann hefts a pair of 20 lb. blues taken on bunker in Northport Harbor on 8-11-85. They were weighed at Bowman's Sporting Goods in Northport.

at West End Jones Beach. A reminder that Bob's has a good supply of Musso Superstrike Needlefish in stock.

Steve Petri speaking from **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** reported some small bass being taken on swimming plugs near the Radio Shack at West End. There has been a pick of big blues on bait at West End on night tides and there was a flurry of 2 to 4 pound blues on tin east of Field 6 (Jones Beach) Labor Day morning.

Bobby Turturello of **Causeway Tackle** in **Wantagh** filed a similar report of some big blues being taken on cut bait at West End and also at Cedar Beach. School bass, mostly shorts, being taken on tins and plugs with teasers from the West End Jetty and the beach east of the Jetty. Bobby weighed a fish as he spoke for a West End regular. It was taken early Tuesday morning on a tin. The bass weighed 10½ pounds. Surf fishermen should take note of the bluefish derby being sponsored by Causeway. It will run from 6PM on September 27th with a weigh in deadline of 4PM, Sunday, September 29th. You can register at the shop prior to the start of the derby. Entry fee is $2. and there will be three prizes for the largest surf caught blues. First place winner will win a custom 11½ foot Lami surf stick and 704 reel. Second place is worth a Penn 704 and 3rd place a surf bag. You can call the shop at 516-785-3223 for more info.

Moving to the east, Bruce over at **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton** reported some big blues being taken on bunker from the jetty at Shinnecock Inlet. The tough part is getting the live bunker. Some small blues being squided along Southampton sand beach. Rumors of a big bass taken at the inlet on Saturday but no confirmation on the weight. Several sources indicated the fish was in the 35 to 40 pound class.

Out in **Montauk**, the stormy weather injected some life into the surf scene. Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** said that some big blues to 12 pounds provided casters with action on Sunday afternoon along Gin Beach and Shagwong. After dark, blues to 16 pounds and a couple of bass to 10 pounds provided further action to casters throwing needlefish plugs. The fish reportedly pushed schools of bunker up tight the length of the beach. Saturday and Sunday nights saw white bottle plugs get a fair amount of attention from a mixture of weakfish, school bass and small and large blues. The scene of this action was under the light. Action along the south side sand beaches was slow most of the week with a couple of brief flurries with small blues down at Gurney's and Hither Hills. John asked that we remind casters that the long awaited Gibb's through-wire Needlefish is now available. While the first order of these 1¾ ounce plugs was sold out immediately, John expects a second order within a week's time or by the time you read this.

Up on the North Shore, lots of school bass being reported from Wading River west to Smithtown Bay. Most are shorts with a couple of keepers mixed in. According to Stan Hentschel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Rebels and Redfins and dropper plugs are accounting for most of the fish. Blues from 2 to 4 pounds being taken along local beaches on tins and poppers. The most consistent action is being found in the early AM. Big blues still riding herd on bunker at Cedar Beach and the mouth of Mt. Sinai Harbor. Freshly snagged bunker are accounting for these fish. Don Meola had a 13 pound chopper labor day night. Stan reminded that he should have live eels in stock for the upcoming weekend.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Despite some foul weather this past week, the freshwater action on the Island continued to improve. The heavy rains on Friday, which washed out many a trip, raised the water level in the Connetquot River and prompted some of the first fall sea run browns to head upstream. Bass and pickerel fishing continued to hold their own as did carp and catfishing.

Mike Nicoletti of **Causeway Bait and Tackle Shop** in Wantagh, gave the Twin Lakes a try on Saturday. Using live killies for bait, Mike managed three pickerel and a few largemouths.

From **Edelman's Sportsman Center** in Farmingdale, Fred Laager passed on word that Richard Modica took a 16 inch rainbow and a 15 inch brook trout from Caleb Smith State Park. A #10 black gnat wet fly accounted for both fish. On Sunday, Tom Kelly fished the headwaters of the Peconic River where he used a lime green Hula Hopper to entice six bass and several pickerel up to 4 lbs. At Lower Lake in Yaphank, Peter Halleran used a silver spinner to connect with two smallmouths in the 1.5 lb. class. Peter also hit four smaller bass which he released.

At **Augie's Bait and Tackle Shop** in Babylon, Tom Healy reports that this week was pretty slow on the freshwater side. He did, however, have an unconfirmed report of a 23 inch tiger muskie taken in Lake Ronkonkoma.

Fred Kruse of Pine Grove Outfitters reports that bass fishing on Lake Ronkonkoma remained unchanged this week. All the action is still restricted to the early morning or late evening hours. Carp seem to be feeding a little more readily for those anglers fishing with dough or corn meal baits. Keep your line on the bottom for these fish and just let it set awhile. Most of the carp have been in the 4 to 6 lb. range. Catfishing has been fair.

Park Manager Gil Bergen gave us a call this Monday to reveal that Friday's heavy rains brought the first group of sea run brown trout into Connetquot River State Park waters. Fishing on Sunday, a Mr. Underhill nailed a 10 lb. sea run at site #29. Despite some water discoloration, action with brookies and large rainbows has been good.

Across the Island at Caleb Smith State Park, park manager Mike Venuti termed this week's action average. The water was still somewhat discolored on Monday, but fishing did not seem to be suffering too much. Best fish of the week was a 3.75 lb. brookie.

On Sunday, I spoke with John Yarsinski who was busy weighing in a 4.1 lb. largemouth bass at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale, which he hit in Fresh Pond. Fishing witi his buddy Kevin Gorman, John used a broken-back, orange and brown Jitterbug to fool this fish and several others.

A slow week in general was the word from **J&J Bait and Tackle Shop** in **Patchogue**. A few pickerel have been taken though in the Patchogue Lakes on live killies or minnow immitations.

George Devlin, of the **Fisherman's Deli** in **Riverhead**, called on Monday to say that bass fishing has been pretty good over the past few days. On Saturday, Louis Coraggio and Dave Means of Mastic, teamed up to take four pickerel to 15" from a Manorville lake on Jitterbugs. Also on Saturday, John Cotton used worms on the Peconic River to connect with two bass, four white perch and ten big bluegills. Sunday witnessed Pat Petrault of Huntington Station, lift a 26", 4.5 pound pickerel from the waters of Wildwood Lake while Monday provided Bob Bliss with three largemouths to 4.5 pounds at Forge Pond.

On Monday, George Rose of Coram and his friend Tony fished an eastern Long Island lake where they teamed up to take several carp to about 20 pounds and a nice mess of catfish.

From up state Rochester, N.Y., Bill Johnson of **Odessey Charters** reports that most boats are now fishing just outside the rivermouths of king salmon. Unfortunately, Tuesday through Saturday was a blowout as heavy storms ripped through the region. During the early morning hours, dodgers and squid or J-plugs have been the ticket to success in 20-30 feet of water. As the sun gets stronger, however, the fleet is moving out to work the 60 to 80 foot depths over 100 feet of water. On Monday, Paul Stinfel of Long Island, hooked up with a few big fish but they managed to break off his twenty pound test line. Largest king weighed in at this week's Empire State Lake Ontario Fishing Contest went 38 pounds.

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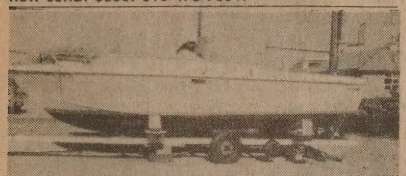

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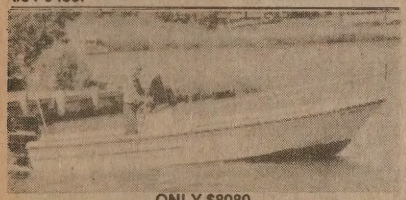

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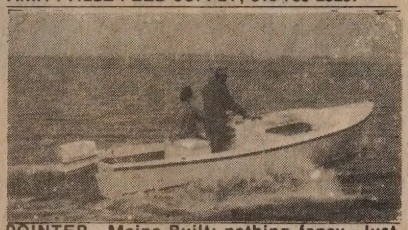

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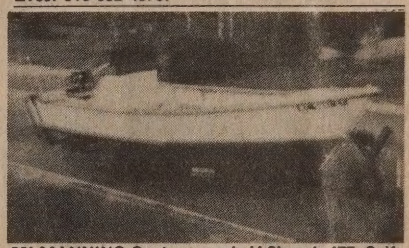

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23' THUNDERBIRD Cuddy, 165 Merc I/O. Electronics, gin pole, chair, washdown. Engine replaced 1984. $4500. After 5PM: 516-587-1563.

17' MFG, 1983 90 hp Johnson PT/T. Approx. 40 hrs. 1980 Shoreline trailer. Compass, CB. Full canvas. All excl. 516-472-9298.

HATTERAS, Bertrams, Chris Crafts, Uniflites, Luhrs, Columbias, etc., We list them all! Please call. Brokerage—Insurance; Yacht delivery, donations. SEA JAC BROKERS, Jackson's Marina, Shinnecock Canal. 516-728-6627/4220. Tom or Chris.

1981 GRADY WHITE 24' Offshore, 100 hrs. 1981 235 & 15 hp Johnsons. 1980 Calkins trailer. New brakes, tires, w/power winch. Swim platform, Porta-Potti, SW washdown, 55 ch. VHF, Loran C, CB, white & flasher D/Rs. Full canvas. Many extras. Better than new. $24,500. Days: 718-456-1197. Eves: 718-899-6998.

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2-$290; 4-$460; 6-$612; 8-$712; 9.9-$940; 15-$1040; 25-$1240; 35-$1340; 40-$1500; 50-$2020; 60-$2200; 70-$2450; 90-$2650; 115-$3000; 120-$3900; 140-$4000; 150-$4000; 175-$4300; 235-$4800; 275-$7900. ELECTRA MARINE INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOW/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere. MERCURY OUTBOARDS. New 1983-'84. Phone quotes.

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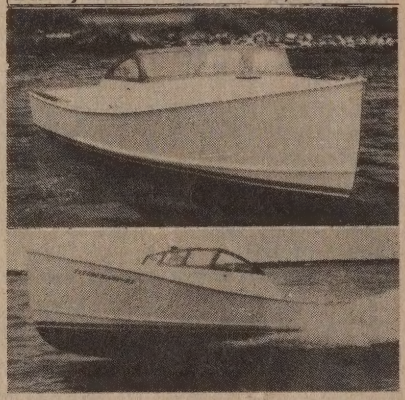

30' Solid Glass Sportfisherman, 1985, GM 8.2 T diesel. Suitable inshore or canyon, 150 gal. fuel, cruise 22 knots. Dry, stable, seaworthy. Many electronics. Mint. $59,500. KARP MARINE AGENCY, 209 E. Bayberry Rd, Islip, NY 11751; 516-581-3308.

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FOR SALE
33' Documented Charter Boat, 1-6 passengers. Compl. repowered, updated in 1985. 85s twin FWC, 230 hp Mercruiser w/70 hr. 1" cedar planking, 1" teak decking. Loran, recorder, VHF, CB. Outriggers, gin pole, dual station. Too numerous to list. Buying bigger boat. $35,000. Photo & specs for serious request only. After 6PM: 331-1205.

GRADY WHITE 24' 1983 Walkaround cuddy, 228 Merc I/O. Low hrs. 95 gal. & 55 gal. gas tanks, hardtop, SW washdown. Dual batt., hyd, P/S. Full swim platform, Porta-Potti. Electronics: Northstar 7000 Loran, Raytheon radar, Lowrance X-15 recorder w/2 trans., Polaris VHF, Dytek water temp. Tower w/full controls. Outriggers, fight chair. Excl. cond. In water; will Demo. Montauk dockage for rest of season. Don't limit yourself to the same fishing grounds. Also have 1973 Chevy Blazer ready for towing. Truck has compl. power angle plow. Plus custom built tandem trailer w/power winch. $35,000 takes it all! Wkdys: 427-8268. Eves & Wknds: 757-5341.

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1972 22.2 AQUASPORT CC. Yard maintained. Electronic box plus many extras. Need engine. $3000. Eves: 718-531-3464.

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SHAMROCK Keel Drive I/Bs 17', 20' & 26'. Shamrock H.T. 25'9 250 hp P.C.M. 5 models. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

STARCRAFT Dealer Demo, 21' Mariner center console. Priced to sell. DAVE BOFILL MARINE INC., 283-6736.

28' BLACKFIN 1980, twin 270 Crusaders, new canvas, fighting chair, Loran, VHF. Absolutely mint! 225 hrs. Must sell; new boat arriving soon. $33,000 or B/O. 516-957-6570.

1983 Grady White 206 Islander, 2.6 ltr sea drive 20' 4". Loaded. Lo hrs. $18,900.
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1980 Chris Craft Scorpion totally recond. 21', 188 Merc I/O-$13,995
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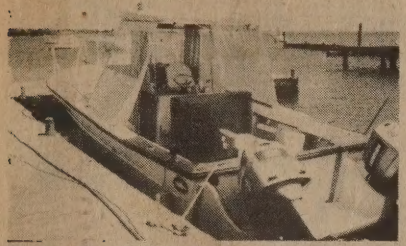
EXECUTIVE 19', 1982 Fiberglass Bowrider, OMC 120 hp. Reclining seats, SS radio, DF, compass. Many extras. Boat in Pt. Lookout. Excl. cond. Tom: 516-432-4665.



DUSKY 26' wide body 1983 Twin 235s. Tuna door, T-Top, encl. V-900 color, 1350 WL, Loran, digital, Dytek. Life raft, winch, full chair, tackle locker 400 gal. fuel. Bristol cond. $42,000. 203-434-8629.

1983 SPORTCRAFT cuddy cabin w/walkaround deck—"Laurian." Evinrude 175 hp & 15 hp Kicker. Dual batt; new late '83. Fully equip. for bay to offshore fishing for sharks, school tuna. All engine instrumentation. All electronics incl. Loran C—no radar. Penn downriggers, trim tabs. Full canvas. CG safety equip.; 2 anchors/lines, BG tackle & lures/rigs,. Portable fight. chair, outriggers, gaffs, pro tail rope. Portable head, 5" TV. Too much to list! Sleeps—max.—2 adults & 1 child. A great weekend home away from home. Boat in Freeport. Wkdays: 201-898-3257. Eves: 201-326-9662.

WELLCRAFT 24' Airslot fisherman. In water; ready to fish. Slip paid. Call for particulars. $8550. Eves: 516-667-2464.

28' TOPAZ 1979, twin TMD40 Volvo, tower w/controls, outriggers, tabs. Stove, refrig., fighting chair. Loran, white line, VHF, temp gauge, radar. Canyon ready. Plus much, much more. $64,500. 718-326-0835.

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Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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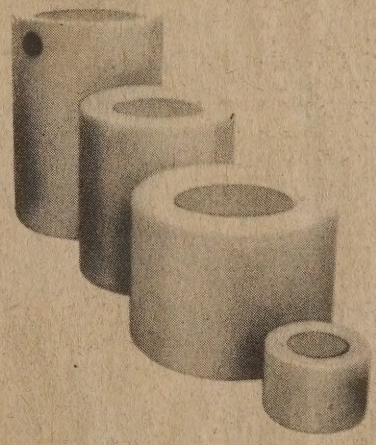

LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

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